

ORIGINAL

414 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 JUN 2000

FORM PTO-1390 (REV 1-98)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				LEA 32 805
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP98/08216		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 22 December 1998 (22.12.98)		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known) see 37 CFR 1.51 09/582246
TITLE OF INVENTION REGULATORY DNA SEQUENCES OF THE HUMAN CATALYTIC RELOMERASE SUB-UNIT GENE, DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC USE THEREOF				PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 24 December 1997 (24.12.97)
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US HAGEN, Gustav; WICK, Maresa; and ZUBOV, Dmitry				
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(g) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(l).</p> <p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). </p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. </p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p>				
<p>Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <p>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Certification of Mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.10; 2) Transmittal of Information Disclosure Statement; 3) Information Disclosure Citation (Modified Form PTO-1449); 4) References cited; and 5) Return Receipt Post Card. </p>				
Date of Deposit: 22 June 2000 Express Mail Label No. EF292675302US				

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known) see 37 CFR 1.5 09/582246		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/EP98/08216	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER LEA 32 805						
		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY							
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:									
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5))									
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO		\$970.00							
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO		\$840.00							
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO		\$760.00							
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(l)-(4)		\$670.00							
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(l)-(4)		\$96.00							
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$ 840.00									
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(c)).									
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE						
Total claims	12 -20 =	0	X \$18.00 \$ 00.00						
Independent claims	9 -3 =	6	X \$78.00 \$ 468.00						
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+\$260.00 \$ 0.00						
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$ 1,308.00									
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).									
SUBTOTAL = \$ 1,308.00									
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).									
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$ 1,308.00									
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property									
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$ 1,308.00									
<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Amount to be: refunded</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>charged</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount to be: refunded	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	charged	\$
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<input type="checkbox"/>	charged	\$							
<p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>13-3372</u> in the amount of \$ <u>1,308.00</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>13-3372</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p>									
<p>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</p>									
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO Jeffrey M. Greenman Vice President, Patents and Licensing BAYER CORPORATION 400 Morgan Lane West Haven, CT 06516 US		 SIGNATURE Jerrie L. Chiu NAME 41,670 REGISTRATION NUMBER							

09/582246

534 Rec'd PCT/PTC 22 JUN 2000

PATENT

Attorney's Docket No. Le A 32 805

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Hagen, et al.

Serial No.: National Stage Filing of PCT/EP98/08216

Filed: 22 June 2000

For: Regulatory DNA Sequences of the Human Catalytic Telomerase Sub-unit Gene, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Use Thereof

BOX PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that the *attached* correspondence comprising:

- Transmittal Letter to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) Concerning a Filing under 35 U.S.C. 371 [IN DUPLICATE];
- A First Preliminary Amendment;
- Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4);
- English translation of the International Application (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2));
- Copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2));
- Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98 consisting of Transmittal of Information Disclosure Statement, Information Disclosure Citation (Modified Form PTO-1449), and copies of references cited therein; and
- Return Receipt Post Card.

is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EF292675302US, addressed to:

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

22 June 2000

Date


Signature of Person Certifying: Lauren Fitzgerald

000260-572233560

09/582246

PATENT

Atty. Docket No.: Le A 32 805

534 Rec'd PCT/PTC 22 JUN 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Hagen, et al.

SERIAL NO.: National Stage Filing of PCT/EP98/08216

FILING DATE: Herewith

TITLE: Regulatory DNA Sequences of the Human Catalytic Telomerase Sub-Unit Gene, Diagnostic Therapeutic Use Thereof

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in the above-captioned national stage application of PCT/EP98/08216 filed on even date herewith. Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 7.

Please amend claims 4, 6 and 8-12 as follows:

4. (Amended) Recombinant construct which contains a DNA sequence according to [one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 3].

6. (Amended) Vector which contains a recombinant construct according to Claim 4 [or 5].

8. (Amended) Recombinant host cells which harbour recombinant constructs or vectors according to [one of] Claim[s] 4 [to 6].

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9. (Amended) Process for identifying substances which affect the promoter activity, silencer activity or enhancer activity of the human catalytic telomerase subunit, comprising the following steps:
- adding a candidate substance to a host cell which harbours DNA sequences according to [one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 3] which sequences are functionally linked to a reporter gene, and
 - measuring the effect of the substance on expression of the reporter gene.
10. (Amended) Process for identifying factors which bind specifically to the DNA according to [one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 3], or to fragments thereof, characterized in that an expression cDNA library is screened using a DNA sequence according to [one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 3], or sub-fragments of widely differing length, as the probe.
11. (Amended) Transgenic animals which harbour recombinant constructs or vectors according to Claim[s] 4 [to 6].
12. (Amended) Process for detecting telomerase-associated conditions in a patient, comprising the following steps:
- incubating a recombinant construct or vector according to Claim[s] 4 [to 6], which additionally contains a reporter gene, with body fluids or cell samples,
 - detecting the activity of the reporter gene in order to obtain a diagnostic value, and
 - comparing the diagnostic value with standard values for the reporter gene construct in standardized normal cells or body fluids of the same type as the test sample.

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Please add the following new claim 13.

13. (New) A medicament comprising a recombinant construct or vector according to claim 4.

Remarks

By way of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-13 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 6 and 8-12 have been amended. Claim 13 has been added. These claim amendments, cancellations and additions are being made solely to remove multiple claim dependencies from the claims and to place the claims in a format appropriate for U.S. prosecution.

Applicants believe that the subject matter of the pending claims is patentable and that the instant application should accordingly be allowed. If the Examiner believes that a conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (203) 812-3964.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: *June 22, 2000*
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Regulatory DNA sequences of the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit, and their diagnostic and therapeutic use

Structure and function of the chromosome ends

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The genetic material of eukaryotic cells is distributed on linear chromosomes. The ends of hereditary units are termed telomeres, derived from the Greek words *telos* (end) and *meros* (part, segment). Most telomeres consist of repeats of short sequences which are mainly composed of thymine and guanine (Zakian, 1995). In all the vertebrates which have so far been investigated, the telomeres consist of the sequence TTAGGG (Meyne *et al.*, 1989).

10

The telomeres have a variety of important functions. They prevent the fusion of chromosomes (McClintock, 1941) and thus the formation of dicentric hereditary units. Such chromosomes having two centromeres can lead to the development of cancer due to loss of heterozygosity or duplication, or loss of genes.

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In addition, telomeres serve the purpose of distinguishing intact hereditary units from damaged hereditary units. Thus, yeast cells ceased their cell division when they contained a chromosome without a telomere (Sandell and Zakian, 1993).

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Telomeres fulfil another important task in association with the replication of eukaryotic cell DNA. In contrast to the circular genomes of prokaryotes, the linear chromosomes of eukaryotes cannot be completely replicated by the DNA polymerase complex. RNA primers are required to initiate DNA replication. After elimination of the RNA primers, extension of the Okazaki fragments and subsequent ligation, the newly synthesized DNA strand lacks the 5' end since the RNA primer cannot be replaced by DNA at that point. Without special protective mechanisms, the chromosomes would therefore shrink with each cell division ("end-replication problem"; Harley *et al.*, 1990). The non-coding telomere sequences presumably constitute a buffer zone for preventing the loss of genes (Sandell and Zakian, 1993).

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In addition to this, telomeres also play an import role in regulating cell ageing (Olovnikov, 1973). Human somatic cells exhibit a limited capacity for replication in culture; after a certain period of time, they become senescent. In this state, the cells no longer divide even after having been stimulated with growth factors; however, 5 they do not die and remain metabolically active (Goldstein, 1990). Various observations support the hypothesis that a cell determines how many more times it can divide on the basis of the length of its telomeres (Allsopp *et al.*, 1992).

10 In summary, the telomeres consequently possess key functions in the ageing of cells, and in stabilizing the genetic material and preventing cancer.

The enzyme telomerase synthesizes the telomeres

15 As described above, organisms which possess linear chromosomes can only replicate their genome incompletely in the absence of a special protective mechanism. Most eukaryotes use a special enzyme, i.e. telomerase, for regenerating the telomere sequences. Telomerase is expressed constitutively in the single-cell organisms which have so far been investigated. On the other hand, telomerase activity has only been measured in humans in germ cells and tumour cells, whereas neighbouring somatic 20 tissue did not contain any telomerase (Kim *et al.*, 1994).

Telomerase can also be designated functionally as terminal telomere transferase, which is located in the cell nucleus as a multiprotein complex. While the RNA moiety of human telomerase has been known for a relatively long period of time 25 (Feng *et al.*, 1995), the catalytic subunit of this enzyme group was recently identified in a variety of organisms (Lingner *et al.*, 1997; cf. our application PCT EP/98/03468 which is likewise pending). These catalytic subunits of telomerase are strikingly homologous both among themselves and in relation to all previously known reverse transcriptases.

30 WO 98/14592 also describes nucleic acid and amino acid sequences of the catalytic telomerase subunit.

Activation of telomerase in human tumours

It was originally only possible to demonstrate telomerase activity in humans in germ
5 line cells and not in normal somatic cells (Hastie *et al.*, 1990; Kim *et al.*, 1994). Following the development of a more sensitive detection method (Kim *et al.*, 1994), a low telomerase activity was also detected in hematopoietic cells (Broccoli *et al.*, 1995; Counter *et al.*, 1995; Hiyama *et al.*, 1995). It is true, however, that these cells nevertheless exhibited a reduction in the telomeres (Vaziri *et al.*, 1994; Counter *et*
10 *al.*, 1995). It has still not been resolved whether the quantity of enzyme in these cells is not sufficient for compensating the telomere loss or whether the telomerase activity which is measured stems from a subpopulation, e.g. incompletely differentiated CD34⁺38⁺ precursor cells (Hiyama *et al.*, 1995). In order to resolve this, it would be necessary to detect telomerase activity in a single cell.
15 Interestingly, however, significant telomerase activity was detected in a large number of the tumour tissues which had thus far been tested (1734/2031, 85%; Shay, 1997), whereas no activity was found in normal somatic tissue (1/196, <1%, Shay, 1997). In addition various investigations have shown that the telomeres still shrank in
20 senescent cells which were transformed with viral oncoproteins and it was only possible to detect telomerase in the subpopulation which survived the growth crisis (Counter *et al.*, 1992). The telomeres were also stable in these immortalized cells. (Counter *et al.*, 1992). Similar findings from investigations in mice (Blasco *et al.*, 1996) support the assumption that reactivation of the telomerase is a late event in
25 tumorigenesis.

Based on these results, a "telomerase hypothesis" was developed which links the loss of telomere sequences and cell ageing with telomerase activity and the development of cancer. In long-lived species such as humans, the shrinking of the telomeres can be regarded as being a mechanism for suppressing tumours. Differentiated cells which do not contain any telomerase cease their cell division at a particular telomere length. If such a cell mutates, it can only form a tumour if the cell can extend its telomeres.

Otherwise, the cell would continue to lose telomere sequences until its chromosomes became unstable and it was finally destroyed. Telomerase reactivation is presumably the main mechanism used by tumour cells to stabilize their telomeres.

- 5 It follows from these observations and considerations that it should be possible to treat tumours by inhibiting the telomerase. Conventional cancer therapies using cytostatic agents or short-wave radiation damage all the dividing cells in the body in addition to the tumour cells. However, since only germ line cells, apart from tumour cells, contain significant telomerase activity, telomerase inhibitors would attack the
10 tumour cells more specifically and consequently elicit fewer undesirable side effects. Telomerase activity has been detected in all the tumour tissues which have so far been tested, which means that these therapeutic agents could be employed against all types of cancer. The effect of telomerase inhibitors would then set in when the telomeres of the cells had shortened to such an extent that the genome became
15 unstable. Since tumour cells usually possess telomeres which are shorter than those of normal somatic cells, cancer cells would be the first to be eliminated by the telomerase inhibitors. By contrast, cells possessing long telomeres, such as the germ cells, would only be damaged at a much later date. Telomerase inhibitors consequently represent a potential way forward in the treatment of cancer.
20
- It becomes possible to obtain unambiguous answers to the question of the nature and points of attack of physiological telomerase inhibitors once the manner in which expression of the telomerase gene is regulated has also been identified.

25 Regulation of gene expression in eukaryotes

- There are a large number of points in eukaryotic gene expression, i.e. the cellular flow of information from the DNA to the protein by way of the RNA, at which regulatory mechanisms can exert an effect. Examples of individual control steps are
30 gene amplification, the recombination of gene loci, chromatin structure, DNA methylation, transcription, post-transcriptional modifications of mRNA, mRNA transport, translation and post-translational modifications of proteins. Studies which

have been carried out to date indicate that control at the level of transcription initiation is of the greatest importance (Latchman, 1991).

- A region which is responsible for regulating transcription, and which is designated
5 the promoter region, is located directly upstream of the transcription start of a gene
which is transcribed by RNA polymerase II. Comparison of the nucleotide sequences
of promoter regions from a large number of known genes shows that particular
sequence motifs occur regularly in this region. These elements include, inter alia, the
TATA box, the CCAAT box and the GC box, which elements are recognized by
10 specific proteins. The TATA box, which is located about 30 nucleotides upstream of
the transcription start, is, for example, recognized by the TFIID subunit TBP ("TATA
box-binding protein"), whereas particular GC-rich sequence segments are specifically
bound by the transcription factor Sp1 ("specificity protein1").
- 15 The promoter can be functionally subdivided into a regulatory segment and a
constitutive segment (Latchman, 1991). The constitutive control region comprises the
so-called core promoter which enables transcription to be initiated correctly. This
promoter contains the sequence elements which are described as UPE's (upstream
promoter elements) which are necessary for efficient transcription. The regulatory
20 control segments, which can be interlaced with the UPE's, possess sequence elements
which can be involved in the signal-dependent regulation of transcription by
hormones, growth factors, etc. They impart tissue-specific or cell-specific promoter
properties.
- 25 DNA segments which are able to exert an influence on gene expression over
relatively large distances are a characteristic feature of eukaryotic genes. These
elements can be located upstream or downstream of a transcription unit, or within the
unit, and can perform their function independently of their orientation. These
sequence segments may reinforce (enhancers) or attenuate (silencers) promoter
30 activity. In a similar way to the promoter regions, enhancers and silencers also
accommodate several binding sites for transcription factors.

The invention relates to the DNA sequences from the 5'-flanking region of the gene for the catalytically active human telomerase subunit and intron sequences for this gene.

5 The invention particularly relates to the 5'-flanking regulatory DNA sequence which contains the promoter DNA sequence for the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit, as depicted in Fig. 10 (SEQ ID NO 3).

10 The invention furthermore relates to part regions of the 5'-flanking regulatory DNA sequence, as depicted in Fig. 4 (SEQ ID NO 1), which has a regulatory effect.

15 Intron sequences for the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit, in particular those sequences which have a regulatory effect, are also part of the subject-matter of the present invention. The intron sequences according to the invention are described in detail in the context of Example 5 (cf. SEQ ID NO 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20).

20 The invention furthermore relates to a recombinant construct which comprises the DNA sequences according to the invention, in particular the 5'-flanking DNA sequence of the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit, or part regions thereof.

25 Preference is given to recombinant constructs which, in addition to the DNA sequences according to the invention, in particular the 5'-flanking DNA sequence of the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit, or part regions thereof, also contain one or more additional DNA sequences which encode polypeptides or proteins.

30 According to a particularly preferred embodiment, these additional DNA sequences encode antineoplastic proteins.

Particular preference is given to those antineoplastic proteins which inhibit angiogenesis directly or indirectly. Examples of these proteins are:

- 5 Plasminogen activator inhibitor (PAI-1), PAI-2, PAI-3, angiostatin, endostatin, platelet factor 4, TIMP-1, TIMP-2, TIMP-3 and leukaemia inhibitory factor (LIF).

Antineoplastic proteins which have a direct or indirect cytostatic effect on tumours are likewise particularly preferred. These proteins include, in particular:

- 10 perforin, granzyme, IL-2, IL-4; IL-12, interferons, such as IFN- α , IFN- β and IFN- γ , TNF, TNF- α , TNF- β , oncostatin M; tumour suppressor genes, such as p53, retinoblastoma.

- 15 Particular preference is furthermore given to antineoplastic proteins which, where appropriate in addition to their antineoplastic effect, stimulate inflammations and thereby contribute to the elimination of tumour cells. Examples of these proteins are:

- 20 RANTES, monocyte chemotactic and activating factor (MCAF), IL-8, macrophage inflammatory protein (MIP-1 α , β), neutrophil activating protein-2 (NAP-2), IL-3, IL-5, human leukaemia inhibitory factor (LIF), IL-7, IL-11, IL-13, GM-CSF, G-CSF and M-CSF.

- 25 Particular preference is furthermore given to antineoplastic proteins which, due to their action as enzymes, are able to convert precursors of an antineoplastic active compound into an antineoplastic active compound. Examples of these enzymes are:

- 30 herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase, varicella zoster virus thymidine kinase, bacterial nitroreductase, bacterial β -glucuronidase, plant β -glucuronidase from *Secale cereale*, human glucuronidase, human carboxypeptidase, bacterial carboxypeptidase, bacterial β -lactamase, bacterial cytosine deaminidase, human catalase and/or phosphatase, human alkaline phosphatase, type 5 acid phosphatase, human

lysooxidase, human acid D-aminooxidase, human glutathione peroxidase, human eosinophil peroxidase and human thyroid peroxidase.

5 The abovementioned recombinant constructs can also contain DNA sequences which encode factor VIII or factor IX, or part fragments thereof. These DNA sequences also include other blood clotting factors.

10 The abovementioned recombinant constructs can also contain DNA sequences which encode a reporter protein. Examples of these reporter proteins are:

15 Chloramphenicol acetyl transferase (CAT), glow-worm luciferase (LUC), β -galactosidase (β -Gal), secreted alkaline phosphatase (SEAP), human growth hormone (hGH), β -glucuronidase (GUS), green-fluorescing protein (GFP), and all the variants derived therefrom, aquarain and obelin.

20 Recombinant constructs according to the invention can also contain DNA which encodes the human catalytic telomerase subunit and its variants and fragments in the antisense orientation. Where appropriate, these constructs can also contain other protein subunits of the human telomerase and the telomerase RNA component in the antisense orientation.

25 The recombinant constructs can, in addition to the DNA which encodes the human catalytic telomerase subunit, and its variants and fragments, also contain other protein subunits of the human telomerase and the telomerase RNA component.

The invention furthermore relates to a vector which contains the abovementioned DNA sequences according to the invention, in particular the 5'-flanking DNA sequences and also one or more of the other DNA sequences mentioned above.

30 The preferred vector for these constructs is a virus, for example a retrovirus, an adenovirus, an adeno-associated virus, a herpes simplex virus, a vaccina virus, a lentiviral virus, a Sindbis virus and a Semliki forest virus.

Preference is also given to using plasmids as vectors.

5 The invention furthermore relates to pharmaceutical preparations which comprise recombinant constructs or vectors according to the invention; for example a preparation in a colloidal dispersion system.

10 Examples of suitable colloidal dispersion systems are liposomes or polylysine ligands.

15 The preparations of the constructs or vectors according to the invention in colloidal dispersion systems can be supplemented with a ligand which binds to the membrane structures of tumour cells. Such a ligand can, for example, be attached to the construct or the vector or else be a component of the liposome structure.

20 15 Suitable ligands are, in particular, polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies, or antibody fragments thereof, which bind, by their variable domains, to the membrane structures of tumour cells, or substances carrying mannose terminally, cytokines or growth factors, or fragments or part sequences thereof, which bind to receptors on tumour cells.

25 Examples of corresponding membrane structures are receptors for a cytokine or a growth factor, such as IL-1, EGF, PDGF, VEGF, TGF β , insulin or insulin-like growth factor (ILGF), or adhesion molecules, such as SLeX, LFA-1, MAC-1, LECAM-1 or VLA-4, or the mannose-6-phosphate receptor.

30 The present invention includes pharmaceutical preparations which, in addition to the vector constructs according to the invention, can also comprise non-toxic, inert, pharmaceutically suitable excipients. It is possible to conceive of administering (e.g. intravenously, intraarterially, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intradermally, anally, vaginally, nasally, transdermally, intraperitoneally, as an aerosol or orally) these preparations at the site of a tumour or administering them systemically.

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The vector constructs according to the invention can be employed in gene therapy.

5 The invention furthermore relates to a recombinant host cell, in particular a recombinant eukaryotic host cell, which harbours the above-described constructs or vectors.

10 The invention furthermore relates to a process for identifying substances which affect the promoter activity, silencer activity or enhancer activity of the catalytic telomerase 15 subunit, with this process comprising the following steps:

- A. adding a candidate substance to a host cell which harbours the regulatory DNA sequence according to the invention, in particular the 5'-flanking regulatory DNA sequence for the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit, or a part region thereof which has a regulatory effect, which sequence or part region is functionally linked to a reporter gene, and
 - B. measuring the effect of the substance on expression of the reporter gene.
- 20 The process can be employed for identifying substances which increase the promoter activity, silencer activity or enhancer activity of the catalytic telomerase subunit.

25 The process can furthermore be employed for identifying substances which inhibit the promoter activity, silencer activity or enhancer activator of the catalytic telomerase subunit.

30 The invention furthermore relates to a process for identifying factors which bind specifically to fragments of the DNA fragments according to the invention, in particular the 5'-flanking regulatory DNA sequence of the catalytic telomerase subunit. This method comprises screening an expression cDNA library using the above-described DNA sequence, or subfragments of widely differing length, as the probe.

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The above-described constructs or vectors can also be used for preparing transgenic animals.

5 The invention furthermore relates to a process for detecting telomerase-associated conditions in a patient, which process comprises the following steps:

- A. incubating a construct or vector, which contains the DNA sequence according to the invention, in particular the 5'-flanking regulatory DNA sequence for the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit, or a part region thereof having a regulatory effect, and a reporter gene, with body fluids or cell samples,
- B. detecting the activity of the reporter gene in order to obtain a diagnostic value; and
- C. comparing the diagnostic value with standard values for the reporter gene construct in standardized normal cells or body fluids of the same type as the test sample;

20 The detection of diagnostic values which are higher or lower than the standard comparative values indicates a telomerase-associated condition, which in turn indicates a pathogenic condition.

25 Explanation of the figures:

Fig. 1: Southern blot analysis using genomic DNA from various species

30 A: Photograph of an ethidium bromide-stained 0.7% agarose gel containing approximately 4 µg of Eco RI-cut genomic DNA. Track 1 contains Hind III-cut λ DNA as size markers (23.5, 9.4, 6.7, 4.4, 2.3, 2.0 and 0.6 kb). Tracks 2 to 10 contain human, rhesus monkey, Sprague

Dawley rat, BALB/c mouse, dog, bovine, rabbit, chicken and yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) genomic DNA.

5 B: Autoradiogram, corresponding to Fig. I A, of a Southern blot analysis in which radioactively labelled hTC-cDNA probe of about 720 bp in length is used for the hybridization.

10 Fig. 2: Restriction analysis of the recombinant λ DNA of the phage clone P12, which hybridizes with a probe from the 5' region of the hTC cDNA.

15 The figure shows a photograph of an ethidium bromide-stained 0.4% agarose gel. Tracks 1 and 2 contain Eco RI/Hind III-cut λ DNA and a 1 kb ladder from Gibco as size markers. Tracks 3 - 7 each contain 250 ng of the DNA from the recombinant phage which has been cut with Bam HI (track 3), Eco RI (track 4), Sal I (track 5), Xho I (track 6) and Sac I (track 7). The arrows mark the two λ arms of the vector EMBL3 Sp6/T7.

20 Fig. 3: Restriction analysis and Southern blot analysis of the recombinant λ DNA of the phage clone which hybridizes with a probe from the 5' region of the hTC cDNA.

25 A: The figure shows a photograph of an ethidium bromide-stained 0.8% agarose gel. Tracks 1 and 15 contain a 1 kb ladder from Gibco as size markers. Tracks 2 to 14 each contain 250 ng of cut λ DNA from the recombinant phage clone. The following enzymes were employed: track 2: Sac I, track 3: Xho I, track 4: Xba I, track 5: Sac I, Xho I, track 6: Sal I, Xho I, Xba I, track 7: Sac I, Xho I, Xba I, track 8: Sac I, Sal I, Xba I, track 9: Sac I, Sal I, BamH I, track 10: Sac I, Sal I, Xho I, track 11: Not I, track 12: Sma I, track 13: empty, track 14: not digested.

B: Autoradiogram, corresponding to Fig. 3 A, of a Southern blot analysis. A 5'-hTC cDNA fragment of about 420 bp in length was used as the probe for the hybridization.

- 5 Fig. 4: Partial DNA sequence of the 5'-flanking region and of the promoter of
the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit. The ATG start
codon in the sequence is printed in bold. The depicted sequence
corresponds to SEQ ID NO 1.

10 Fig. 5: Use of primer extension analysis to identify the transcription start.

The figure shows an autoradiogram of a denaturing polyacrylamide gel
which was selected for depicting a primer extension analysis. An
oligonucleotide having the sequence
15 5' GTTAAGTTGTAGCTTACACTGGTTCTC 3' was used as the primer.
The primer extension reaction was loaded in track 1. Tracks G, A, T and
C constitute the sequence reactions using the same primer and the
corresponding dideoxynucleotides. The thick arrow marks the main
transcription start while the thin arrows point to three subsidiary
20 transcription start points.

Fig. 6: cDNA sequence of the human catalytic telomerase subunit (hTC; cf. our
pending application PCT/EP/98/03468). The depicted sequence
corresponds to SEQ ID NO 2.

25 Fig. 7: Structural organization and restriction map of the human hTC gene and
its 5'-flanking and 3'-flanking regions.

Exons are shown as consecutively numbered rectangles which are filled
in black, and introns are shown as regions which are not filled in.
Untranslated sequence segments in the exons are hatched. Translation
starts in exon 1 and ends in exon 16. Restriction enzyme cleavage sites

are marked as follows: S, SacI; X, XhoI. The relative arrangement of the five phage clones (P2, P3, P5, P12, P17), and of the product from the genome walking, are shown by thin lines. As the dots indicate, the sequence of intron 16 has only been partly deciphered.

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Fig. 8: HTL splice variants.

A: Diagrammatic structure of the hTC mRNA splice variants. The complete hTC mRNA is depicted as a rectangle with a grey background in the upper region of the figure. The 16 exons are depicted in accordance with their size. The translation start (ATG) and the stop codon, and also the telomerase-specific T motif, and the seven RT motifs, are all shown. The hTC variants are subdivided into deletion and insertion variants. The missing exon sequences are marked in the deletions. The insertions are shown by additional white rectangles. The sizes and origins of the inserted sequences are given. Newly formed stop codons are marked. The size of the insertion in variant INS2 is unknown.

B: Exon-intron transitions in the hTC splice variants. Unspliced 5'-flanking and 3'-flanking sequences are shown as white rectangles. The origins of the exon and intron sequences are given. Intron and exon sequences are shown in small letters and large letters, respectively. The donor and acceptor sequences in the splice sites are underlaid as grey rectangles, and their exon and intron origins are also given.

25

Fig. 9: Identification of the transcription start by means of RT-PCR analysis. The RT-PCR was carried out using a cDNA library prepared from HL 60 cells and genomic DNA as the positive control. A common 3' primer hybridizes to a region of the exon 1 sequence. The positions of the different 5' primers in the coding region or the 5'-flanking region are given. In the negative control, no template DNA was added to the PCR reaction. M: DNA size marker.

- Fig. 10: Nucleotide sequence and structural features of the hTC promoter.
The figure depicts 11273 bp of the 5'-flanking hTC gene sequence, beginning with the translation start codon ATG (+1). The putative region of the translation start is underlined. Possible regulatory sequence segments within the 4000 bp upstream of the translation start are ringed. The depicted sequence corresponds to SEQ ID NO 3.
- Fig. 11: Activity of the hTC promoter in HEK-293 cells.
The first 5000 bp of the 5'-flanking hTC gene region are shown diagrammatically in the upper part of the figure. The ATG start codon is picked out. CpG-rich islands are marked by grey rectangles. The sizes of the hTC promoter-luciferase construct are shown on the left-hand side of the figure. The promoterless pGL2 basic construct and the SV40 promoter construct pGL2-Pro were used as controls in each transfection. The relative luciferase activities of the different promoter constructs in HEK cells are shown as continuous bars on the right-hand side of the figure. The standard deviation is indicated. The numerical values represent the average of two independent experiments which were carried out in duplicate.
- Tab. 1: Exon-intron transitions in the hTC gene
The table lists the nucleotide sequences at the 3' and 5' splice transitions of the hTC gene. The consensus sequences for donor and acceptor sequences (AG and GT) are underlaid with grey rectangles. The table shows the intron sequences (small letters) and exon sequences (large letters) which flank the splice acceptor and donor sites. The sizes of the exons and introns are given in bp.
- Tab. 2: Potential binding sites for DNA-binding factors in the nucleotide sequence of intron 2

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The search for possible DNA-binding factors (e.g. transcription factors) was carried out using the "find pattern" algorithm from the Genetics Computer Group (Madison, USA) GCG sequence analysis program package. The table lists the abbreviations of the DNA-binding factors which were identified and their location in intron 2.

Tab. I

3' Acceptor Sequence			5' Donor Sequence		
Intron	Exon	bp	Intron	Exon	bp
	No.	No.		No.	No.
5' flanking region					
GTTCAGGCAAGCTGTGCT	1	281	CGCCCCCTTTCGCGAG		1 104
GTGTCCTGCCTGGAGAGC	2	1354	TGGCTGGCAAGGCCAG		2 8616
GAGTGCTGTGTCGCGC	3	196	TGCAAAACATTGAAATCAG		3 2089
A.CAGACTCTGAGGGTG	4	181	GTTGCGAGAAAGAGG		4 687
GCGAGCAGTCACCTGGA	5	180	TGAGCTTACTTGTGAG		5 494
GTGGATGTGTAACGGCGGT	6	156	CAAGGCCCTAACGCCAC		6 >4660
GTCTCTACCTGACAGACC	7	96	TGCCGTGGTATGAGAG		7 980
CTCCGCTCTCTCTGCTGAG	8	86	CCGGCCATTCAGGGCAA		8 2485
CTGCTGTTCCGCGGCGAG	9	114	GGGGATTCTCGCGGAGCG		9 1984
GCTGTTCCCTTCTTCTAG	10	72	ACGGAAAACCTTCCTCAG		10 1871
CATTGCCCCTGCTCTAG	11	189	TGAGAGCAGCACTGCGGGA		11 3801
ATTCGGCCCTGCTCTAG	12	127	CCCTTCCTGATTTTCAG		12 880
TCTTCTTGCGCTCTAG	13	62	TCTGCTGAGGGTACAG		13 3187
CTGCGCCATCTCTCTAG	14	125	CTGAAACCCAAGAACCCAG		14 781
AGCTCTGCTTCCCGAG	15	138	CTGGGTCACTAGGAGCC		15 536
TCTGATTCTGGCCCGAG	16	664	TTCCTAGTTTGTAAAAAA	3' flanking region	
CCAGACAGCAAGTCAGTCG					

Tab. 2

Factors	Location in intron 2
C/EBP	2925
CRE.2	2749
Sp1	2378, 4094, 4526, 4787, 4835, 4995
AP-2 CS3	5099
AP-2 CS4	2213, 3699, 4667, 5878, 5938, 6059, 6180, 6496
AP-2 CS5	5350, 5798, 5880, 5940, 6061, 6182, 6375, 6498
PEA3	934, 2505
P53	2125
GR uteroglobin	848, 1487, 2956
PR uteroglobin	3331
Zeste-white	1577, 1619, 1703, 1745, 1787, 1829, 1871, 1913, 1955, 1997, 2039, 2081, 3518, 3709, 4765, 5014, 5055
GRE	846
MyoD-MCK right site/rev	447, 509, 558, 1370, 1595, 1900, 2028, 2099, 4557
MyoD-MCK left site	108, 118, 453, 1566, 1608, 1692, 1734, 1818, 1902, 1986, 2372, 2460, 2720, 3491, 5030
Ets-1 CS	6408
AP1	3784, 4406
CREB	2801
GATA-1	839, 1390, 3154
c-Myc	108, 118, 453, 1566, 1608, 1692, 1734, 1818, 1902, 1986, 2372, 2460, 2720, 3491, 5030
CACCC site	991
CCAAT site	1224
CCAC box	992
CAAT site	463, 2395
Rb site	992, 4663
TATA	3650
CDEI	106, 1564, 1606, 1690, 1732, 1816, 1900, 1984

Examples

The human gene for the catalytic telomerase subunit (ghTC), and the regions of this gene located 5' and 3', were cloned, while the start point for transcription was 5 determined, potential binding sites for DNA-binding proteins were identified and active promoter fragments were highlighted. The sequence of the hTC cDNA (Fig. 6) has already been reported in our application PCT/EP/98/03468, which is also pending. Unless otherwise mentioned, all the data refer to the position of the cDNA in this sequence.

10

Example 1

A genomic Southern blot analysis was used to determine whether ghTC constitutes a single gene in the human genome or whether there exist several loci for the hTC gene 15 and possibly also ghTC pseudogenes.

In order to do this, a commercially available zoo blot from Clontech was subjected to 20 Southern blot analysis. This blot contains 4 µg of Eco RI-cut genomic DNA from nine different species (human, monkey, rat, mouse, dog, bovine, rabbit, chicken and yeast). With the exception of yeast, chicken and human, the DNA was isolated from kidney tissue. The human genomic DNA was isolated from placenta and the chicken genomic DNA was purified from liver tissue. An hTC cDNA fragment of about 720 bp in length, which was isolated from hTC cDNA, variant Del2 (position 1685 to 2349 plus 2531 to 2590 in Fig. 6 [deletion 2; cf. Example 5 in Fig. 8]), was used as 25 the radioactively labelled probe in the autoradiogram in Fig. 1. The experimental conditions for the blot hybridization and washing steps were taken from Ausubel *et al.* (1987).

In the case of the human DNA, the probe recognizes two specific DNA fragments. 30 The smaller Eco RI fragment, of from about 1.5 to 1.8 kb in length, probably originates from two Eco RI cleavage sites in an intron in the ghTC DNA. On the

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basis of this result, it is to be assumed that only one single ghTC gene is present in the human genome.

Example 2

5

In order to isolate the 5' flanking hTC gene sequence, approx. 1.5×10^6 phages from a human genomic placenta gene library (EMBL 3 SP6/T7 from Clontech, order number HL1067j) were hybridized on nitrocellulose filters ($0.45 \mu\text{m}$; from Schleicher and Schuell), in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, with a 10 radioactively labelled 5'-hTC cDNA fragment of about 500 bp in length (position 839 to 1345 in Fig. 6). The nitrocellulose filters were firstly incubated, at 42°C for two hours, in $2 \times \text{SSC}$ (0.3 M NaCl; 0.5 M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0) and then in a prehybridization solution (50% formamide; 5 x SSPE, pH 7.4; 5 x Denhard's solution; 0.25% SDS; 100 μg of herring sperm DNA/ml). For the overnight 15 hybridization, the prehybridization solution was supplemented with 1.5×10^6 cpm of denatured, radioactively labelled probe/ml of solution. Nonspecifically bound radioactive DNA was removed under stringent conditions, i.e. by means of three five-minute steps of washing with $2 \times \text{SSC}$; 0.1% SDS at from 55 to 65°C . The filters were evaluated by autoradiography.

20

The phage clones which were identified in this primary investigation were purified (Ausubel *et al.* (1987)). In subsequent analyses, one phage clone, i.e. P12 turned out to be potentially positive. A λ DNA preparation carried out on this phage (Ausubel *et al.* (1987)), and the subsequent restriction digestion with enzymes which release the 25 genomic insert in fragments, showed that this phage clone contains an insert of approx. 15 kb in the vector (Fig. 2).

In order to isolate the complete hTC gene sequence, in each case from 1 to 1.5×10^6 30 phages were screened, in independent experiments, with in each case different radioactively labelled probes, as described above.

The phage clones which were identified in these primary investigations, and which were positive for the corresponding probes, were purified. The phage clone P17 was found to contain an hTC cDNA fragment of about 250 bp in length (position 1787 to 2040 in Fig. 6). The phage clone P2 was identified as containing an hTC cDNA fragment of about 740 bp in length (position 1685 to 2349 plus 2531 to 2607 in Fig. 6 [deletion 2; cf. Example 5]). The phage clones P3 and P5 were found to contain a 3' hTC cDNA fragment of 420 bp in length (position 3047 to 3470 in Fig. 6). After the λ DNA had been prepared from these phages, and subsequently subjected to restriction digestion with enzymes which release the genomic insert in fragments, the 10 inserts were subcloned into plasmids (Example 4).

Example 3

In order to investigate whether the 5' end of the hTC cDNA was also present in the 15 insert in the recombinant phage clone P12, the λ DNA from this clone was hybridized, in a Southern blot analysis, with a radiatively labelled hTC cDNA fragment of about 440 bp in length (position 1 to 440 in Fig. 6) from the extreme 5' region (Fig. 3).

20 Since the isolated λ DNA from the positive clone also hybridizes with the extreme 5' end of the hTC cDNA, this phage probably also contains the 5' sequence region flanking the ATG start codon.

Example 4

25 In order to subclone the entire 15 kb insert in the positive phage clone P12 in the form of subfragments, and subsequently to sequence these fragments, restriction endonucleases which, on the one hand, release the entire insert from EMBL3 Sp6/T7 (cf. Example 2) and, in addition, cut within the insert, were selected for digesting the 30 DNA.

- In all, two Xho I subfragments, of about 8.3 and about 6.5 kb in length, respectively, and three Sac I subfragments, of about 8.5, about 3.5 and about 3 kb in length, respectively, were subcloned into the pBluescript KS(+) vector (from Stratagene). The 5123 bp 5'-flanking nucleotide sequence of the ghTC gene region, starting from the ATG start codon, was determined by analysing the sequences of these fragments (Fig. 4; corresponding to SEQ ID NO 1). Fig. 4 depicts the first 5123 bp (starting from the ATG start codon). Fig. 10 depicts the entire cloned 5' sequence (corresponding to SEQ ID NO 3).
- 5
- 10 In order to subclone the entire insert, of approx. 14.6 kb in size, in phage clone P17 in the form of subfragments, restriction endonucleases which, on the one hand, release the entire insert from EMLB3 Sp6/T7 and, in addition, cut a few times within the insert, were selected for digesting the DNA. Three XhoI/BamHI fragments, of 7.1 kb, 4.2 kb and 1.5 kb in size, respectively, and one BamHI fragment, of 1.8 kb in size, were subcloned by means of using a combination digestion with the enzymes XhoI and BamHI. Combination restriction digestion with the enzymes XhoI and XbaI resulted in a XhoI/XbaI fragment of 6.5 kb in size, and two XhoI fragments, of 6.5 kb and 1.5 kb in size, respectively, being cloned.
- 15
- 20 Digestion with the restriction enzyme XhoI was used to subclone the insert, of approx. 17.9 kb in size, in phage clone P2 in the form of subfragments. In all, three XhoI subfragments, of 7.5 kb, 6.4 kb and 1.6 kb in length, respectively, were cloned. Four SacI fragments, of 4.8 kb, 3 kb, 2 kb and 1.8 kb in size, respectively, were additionally subcloned by digesting with the restriction enzyme SacI.
- 25
- 30 The insert, of approx. 13.5 kb in size, in phage clone P3 was subcloned by digesting with the restriction enzymes SacI and/or XhoI. Six SacI subfragments, of 3.2 kb, 2 kb, 0.9 kb, 0.8 kb, 0.65 kb and 0.5 kb in length, respectively, and two XhoI subfragments, of 6.5 kb and 4.3 kb in length, respectively, were obtained in this connection.

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The insert, of approx. 13.2 kb in size, in phage clone P5 was subcloned by digesting with the restriction enzymes SacI and/or XhoI. In all, SacI fragments of 6.5 kb, 3.3 kb, 3.2 kb, 0.8 kb and 0.3 kb in size, and XhoI fragment of 7 kb and 3.2 kb in size, were subcloned.

5

In order to clone the hTC genomic sequence region located 3' of phage clone P17 and 5' of phage clone P2, 3 genomic walkings were carried out using the Clontech GenomeWalker™ kits (catalogue number K1803-1) and various combinations of primers. In a final volume of 50 µl, 10 pmol of dNTP mix were added to 1 µl of 10 human GenomeWalker Library HDL (from Clontech), and a PCR reaction was carried out in 1xKlen Taq PCR reaction buffer and 1xAdvantage Klen Taq polymerase mix (from Clontech). 10 pmol of an internal gene-specific primer, and 10 pmol of the adaptor primer AP1 (5'-GTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGC-3'; from Clontech) were added as primers. The PCR was carried out in 3 steps as a touchdown 15 PCR. First of all, denaturation was carried out at 94°C for 20 sec, and the primers were then annealed, and the DNA chain extended, at 72°C for 4 min, over 7 cycles. There then followed 37 cycles in which the DNA was denatured at 94°C for 20 sec but the subsequent primer extension took place at 67°C for 4 min. In conclusion, there followed a chain extension at 67°C for 4 min. After this first PCR, the PCR 20 product was diluted 1:50. One µl of this dilution was used in a second nested PCR together with 10 pmol of dNTP mix in 1xKlen Taq PCR reaction buffer and 1xAdvantage Klen Taq polymerase mix and also 10 pmol of a nested gene-specific primer and 10 pmol of the nested Marathon Adaptor primers AP2 (5'-ACTATAAGGCACGCGTGGT-3'; from Clontech). The PCR conditions 25 corresponded to the parameters which were selected in the first PCR. As the sole exception, only 5 cycles rather than 7 cycles were selected in the first PCR step and only 24 cycles, instead of 37 cycles, were run in the second PCR step. The products of this nested genomic walking PCR were cloned into the TA Cloning Vector pCRII from InVitrogen.

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In the first genomic walking, the gene-specific primer C3K2-GSP1 (5'-GACGTGGCTCTTGAAGGCCTG-3') and the nested gene-specific primer C3K2-GSP2 (5'-GCCTTCTGGACCACGGCATACC-3') were used, together with the HDL library 4, and a PCR fragment of 1639 bp in length was obtained. In the second genomic walking, a PCR fragment of 685 bp in length was amplified from the HDL library 4 using the gene-specific primer C3F2 (5'-CGTAGTTGAGCACGCTGAACAGTG-3') and the nested gene-specific primer C3F (5'-CCTTCACCCCTCGAGGTGAGACGCT-3). The third genomic walking mixture, using the gene-specific primer DEL5-GSP1 (5'-GGTGGATGTGACGGGCGCGTACG-3') and the nested gene-specific primer C5K-GSP1 (5'-GGTATGCCGTGGTCCAGAAGGC-3'), led to a 924 bp PCR fragments being cloned from the HDL library 1. In all, 2100 bp of the genomic hTC region located 3' of phage clone P17 were identified using this genomic walking method (see Fig. 7).

The subcloned fragments, and the genomic walking products, were sequenced in single-stranded form. The Lasergene Biocomputing Software (DNASTAR Inc. Madison, Wisconsin, USA) was used to identify overlapping regions and form contigs. In all, 2 large contigs were assembled from the sequences collected from phage clones P12, P17, P2, P3 and P5, and also the sequence data from the genomic walking. Contig 1 consists of sequence data from phage clones P12 and P17 and the sequence data from the genomic walking. Contig 2 was put together from the sequences from phage clones P2, P3 and P5. Overlapping phage clone regions are shown diagrammatically in Fig. 7. The sequence data from the 2 contigs are shown below. The ATG start codon in contig 1 is underlined. The TGA stop codon is underlined in contig 2.

Contig1:

	ACCTTGAGGCC	AAAGGACATCC	GCGCATGGT	ACCCATGAT	GCACACCCAC	ACCCAGCCT	TGGTCRAGCA	70
5	ATGGAGACCT	CTCTCAARAA	AAAANAAA	AATTGAATA	ATTTAAGAC	TCTTCCTTGG	CCACACTGG	140
	ACAAAACACG	AAATCAGAA	CAAGAGGAA	TTTAAACAACT	ATTTAAGAC	ATGAAAAATT	ACCAATATAC	210
	TCTCTGATGA	CCAGTGAAGTC	ATAGTGAAGA	TTAAAAGGAA	ATTTAAGAC	AAATGATATA	CAATGTATAA	280
	CGGAAACATCA	ACCTCTCAA	ACCCACGCTA	TACAGCAGGAA	GCAGTCGCTA	GAANGGAGCT	TTGAGCTTCA	350
10	ACGACCTACA	TCAAAAGAAT	AGGAAAGCCA	GGCCGAGTGG	CTCATGCTG	TAATCCGAGC	ACTTGTGAG	420
	GCCTAAGGGCG	GCAGATGCGC	TGGGTGAGG	AGTTGGCAGAC	GAACCTGACC	AACACAGAGA	ACCTTGTGCG	490
	CTACTAAAGA	TAACAAATTA	GGGGCATGAT	GGGGCATGAT	CTGTGATMTC	CAGCTACTTCG	GGAGCTGTG	560
	GCAGGATATAAC	CGCTTGAACCC	CAGGGAGGTGG	AGGTGTCGGT	GGGCCGCGGT	TGCGCCATTCG	GACTCCAGCC	630
	TGGGAAACAAAC	AGATGGAACCC	CTGTCATCAG	AAAAAAAAGA	AAAGTAGAAAA	ACTTAAATAT	ACCACTTAA	700
15	GATGCCACCTT	AAAGAACATAG	AAAAGCAAGA	GCAAAACTTAA	CTTAAAATTCG	GTAAAAGAAA	AGAAATATAA	770
	AAAGTCGAGAT	CGAAAGATAAA	TGAAGACTGAA	AGATAACCAT	ACAAAAGATC	AACAAAATTA	AAAGTTGGT	840
	TTTTGAAAGAA	ATAAAACAAA	TTGACAAACC	TTGGCCAGA	CTAAGGAAAAA	AGGAAAGAAC	ACCTAATATAA	910
	ATAAAGTCAG	AGATGAAAAA	AGGAGACATA	CAACTGTACAT	CACAGAAAAAT	CAAGGGATCA	CTAGAGGCT	980
20	CTATGAGCAC	CTGTGACAA	ATTAATGAA	AAACCTAGAA	AAATTAGATA	ATTTCTGAGA	TGTCATCACAC	1050
	CTACCAAGAT	TGAACATG	AGNAATCCAA	AGCCCACAA	GGCAATTA	ATAATGGGA	TTAACCGCT	1120
	ATAAAGAAAGT	CTCTTGACAA	AGGAGAAGCC	AGGACCAAT	GGCTTCTCTG	CTGATTITTA	CCAACTATT	1190
	AAAGGAAGAT	GAATTCCTT	CTACTCAAA	CTATTCTGAA	AAATAGAGAC	AAAGAATATTCT	CCAACTACAT	1260
25	TCTCATGTTG	CGATTTTACCC	CTGATTCTTAA	AAACAGGACAA	AAACACATCA	AAACACAAAC	AAACAAAAAA	1330
	CAAGAAGAAAC	GAARAACAT	GGCCACATATC	CTCTGATGAA	ATGTGATACA	AAATCTCTAA	CAAACACAT	1400
	ACGATGCTT	GGAAACATCA	ATCTGCAAC	ATCATCTTCA	GTGTGAGT	GGGATTATTTC	CCAGGATGTTG	1470
	AAAGATGCT	GGAAACATCA	ATCTGCAAC	ATCATCTTCA	GTGTGAGT	AAATGAGAT	AAACAAACAT	1540
	TATGATTATT	TCACCTTCA	ATACATGAA	AGGAGTAA	TCATCTGAA	CTTCATGATA	AAACACCTCA	1610
30	AAAGGAAACCG	TATACAAAGA	AGGAGAAGAA	ATGGTAA	GGCTCACACC	GGATGCTTCA	OCACTCTG	1680
	AGGGCAAGGT	GGGATCATG	CTTGGCCGCA	GGAGCTTGG	ATGACTGCG	GCAGGAGGAG	CTTGGCCGCA	1750
	CTACAAAAAA	CTTGTGAA	AAAATGAGCA	GGCATGATGG	CATATGATC	TAGTCCCAGG	TAGTCCTGGG	1820
	GCTGAGGTGG	GRGAATGACT	TAAGCTTGA	AGGTGCGAGC	TGGCTGAGC	CATGAGCATG	TCAGCTACT	1890
35	CCAGCCTGAA	CAACAGGCA	AGGCCCTAAC	TAATGANGAA	AGGAGAAGG	AGGAAGGAGA	GGGGGGGGAG	1960
	AAAGGGGAGG	GGGGAGGAGG	AGGAGGTGGA	GGAGAGTGG	AGGGAGGAGG	GGAGGGGAAA	GAGGAAGGAG	2030
	AGGAACATAC	TTTCACATCA	ATAAAAGGCA	TATATGACAG	ACCGGGATGG	TATATGAGG	AAAATCTGAA	2100
	AGCCCTTCTC	TTCAAGATCT	AGGAAATGCA	GGAGGATGCA	TTTCAACCTG	TGATGTCACA	TAGTACTAGA	2170
	AGTCCTGAGT	AGGACATCA	DTAAGGAGAA	AGGAAATAAA	GGCTACCTAA	CTGGAAGAGA	AGGAATGCAA	2240
40	TTATCTGTTG	TGGCATGAG	ATGATCTTAT	ATCTGGAAA	GAGCTTAAAGA	ACCACTAAA	AACTTATAGA	2310
	GCTGAATTTT	GGTGCAGACAG	GATGACAAA	CAATGTACAA	AAATCTGAGT	TATTTCTATA	TTCCACACAGC	2380
	AAACAAATCTG	AAAAGAAA	CAAAAAGCA	CTACAAATA	AAATTTACAA	GCTAGGAATT	ACCAAAAGAA	2450
	GTGAAAGATG	TCATCAATG	AAACATTA	ATGTGATATA	AAAGGATTTG	AGAGGACACA	AAAAAGAAGAA	2520
45	AGATAATCTCA	TGGTCATGAA	TGGAGAGAT	AAATATCTG	AAATGTCGA	TACATCCTAA	AGCAATTTC	2590
	AAATTCAGAT	CAATCCCTAT	TAATACATTA	ATGAGCTTGT	TCACAGAAT	AGAGAAACAA	ATTCATAGAT	2660
	TTCTGATCTT	GGGATCTTCA	ATGATCTTCA	ATGAGCTTAT	TCATGACAA	AGAGAACAAA	CTGGAGGATC	2730
	CACTACCTCT	GACTTCAAA	ATGATACAA	AGGAGTACTA	TCATGACAA	AGGAGACTCA	AGGAGACTCA	2800
	AGTGAAGACA	TOGACAGAGA	GGAAACAGAA	GAGGAGTAA	AGAACATCTA	AGGAGACTCA	AGTGAAGACA	2870
50	TTTTGAGCAA	GGCTGGCAAC	AGACGTTTCTT	GGGAAAGAGA	TAATCTGCT	TAATCTGCT	AAATCTGCT	2940
	CTGGATATCC	ATATGACAA	TAACATGAC	ATGAGCTTGT	GGGAAAGAGA	TAATCTGCT	CTGGAGGAGA	3010
	GGATGAAGGG	CTTAATCTAA	AAACCTCAA	CTTGGCAACT	TCACAAAGAA	AAACCTCTAA	CTGGAGGAGA	3080
	GGCATTTGG	GTGGGCAACG	ACTTCTGG	TAATTCCTCG	CGGGCCACGG	CAACCCAAAGC	AAAAACAGAC	3150
55	AAATGGGATC	ATATCAAGT	AAAAGGCTTC	TGGCCGACAA	GGACAAACAT	CAACAAAGG	AGAGACACG	3220
	CCACAGAGAT	GGGATGAGAT	TTTGCAAACT	ATTCATCTAA	CAAGGGAAAT	ATAACCAAGT	TATATAAGGA	3290
	GCTCAACTCT	CTCTATAGA	AAAACACCTA	TAATGGCTAT	TTTCAACAA	AAAGCAAAA	CTCTGGTACG	3360
	CATTCTCCTA	AAATGAGCA	AAACATGCA	AAACGGCTC	TAAGAAATGTG	CTCAACACCA	CTGATCTACA	3430
	GAGAAATGCA	ATAACAAATC	ACTATGAGAC	ATCATCTCAT	CCGGATTTG	ATGGCTTTTA	CTTAAACAGG	3500
60	AGGCAATCA	AAATGGGCACT	GGGGATGGTGG	TTAAAAGGAA	ACCCCTGGAG	ACTGTTGGG	GGGAATGGAA	3570
	TTGCTTACAC	TGGGAGGAC	AGTTGGAAAG	TTCTCTAAA	AAATTTAA	AAAGGACTTCA	TACAGCAGTC	3640
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Le A 32 805-Foreign Countries

- 27 -

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5	CTCCCCATC AGGAATAGTC CATCCCGAGA TTTCGCATTT TCACCCCTCT CGGCCCTGCCT CCTTTCGCTT 21770
	CAACCCCAAC CATCCAGGGT GAGACCTGTA GAAGGRCCTT GGAGGCTCTG GGAAATTGGA GTGACCAAAG 21840
	GTGTCGCTTG TACACAGGGC AGGACCTGTC ACCTGGATGG GGTTCCCTGT GGTCATAATT TCTCATGTTT 21910
	GCTGTTGGAA TAAATATGAG ATTATATGAG TTTCAGTGT TTGAAAAGAA AGGATTCATG AAATCTTAAAT 21980
10	GTGCACTGCA TAGACACCCAG TGATGCAAT TACAGAGGC TGAGGTGGA CGGGGTGGG TGTCAGTGGG 22050
	GCCTCATGGC TGGCGGGAGA TTTCAGGAGG TCTATGAGT ATATGGGTTG TGTCAGTGGC GGCCCCATGG 22120
	CTCTGGCTGG CCTGGGGAGT TTCTGATCTG GTGAGGCAGG AGGGGGAGGA GGTTAGGGGA TAGACAGTTG 22190
	GAGCCGCCCACT CTGGAAAGAC ATAACAGTAA GTCCAGGGCA GAAGGGCAGC AGGGATGCTG GGGGCCCAAG 22260
15	TTGGGGGCCG GGGATGATGG AGGGCCCTGG CAGGGTGGCA GGAGATGATGG GGCCCCCAAG TGAGGCTTCC 22330
	GGGGTGATGG TGGGGGGCTGG CTGGGGTGGC GGGAAAGATG GGAGGATGTC GGCTGGGCCCT 22400
	GCCTCCACCA TGACCGATG TGCTCTCTG TGACCATCTG CTGGGGCCAT CAGCTTCTTCA 22470
	GGAGGTGGGG GGCAGGGGCA TGACACCATG CTGGTAAAGGGC AGGCTTCTGG CTCCTCTGGA AGGCCCAAC 22540
20	TCAGGTTGAG ATGCACTAC CGCCCTGGC ATTCTCTTAA AGAGTAGAAC AGGATTCAGA TCTCTGAGA 22610
	GTGGGTAGTG TGGGGCAGTG GAGGGTGTGG CAACAGGAGA CTTCAGGGTG GGCGCTGGTG TGCTCTCTCA 22680
	TCTCTTATAG ATCTCCAGT CATTCCTCTA ATCTCTTAAAG CCTCCCTCAG CCTCTCTCTA CTCTCTCTTA 22750
	TCTCCAGTC TCTATGTC TAATCTTACAG ATCTCCCTAGT CCTACATCTTAA ATCTCTTAAAT CTCTCTCTCA 22820
25	CATCCAGACAG CCTGGGGAGG GAGGGTGGCC AGGGCTCTG AGGAGGCTGG AGGAGGAGGAG CAGGGGGGGG 22890
	GAAGGGACTG GAAGGGGGGG AGGAAACAGC AGGGCTGGC AGGGAGGAGGAG CAGGGGGGGG TGAGAACAGC 23030
	AGGCCCTCTT CAGAGCTGG CTGGGGTGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 23100
	CAACGGGGGG CCTGGGGGGG CTGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 23170
30	TTTCAGTCA GGCAGGGGCTT GCGGGGGGGG CTGGATGGCA TGTCAGGCA AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 23240
	TGCTGGCTGT CTAGGGATG TGTCAGTGGC TGTCAGTAAAT GGGGGGGGGGG GGCCCCAAGTC CAGACAGTC 23310
	GTCTTAATG CACTGGGGC CTGGAGGGC CGGTAGTAGGA GCCTGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG CTGGAGGGGG 23380
	GGCTGGGGGG CGCTGGGGCC CTGCAACATG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG CCCTGGGGGG AGGACCTTCA 23450
35	GTGNGGAGTG GGACAGAACA GGGGGGGGAG TGCCCAGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 23520
	TGAAATCACAG ACCAACCATG CTCAGGCTATG TTTCAGTACAT AGCTCTCTCA AAAGCTTCAG ATTCTCTTCA 23590
	CTCCGGGGTT TTTCAGTGTG AATTATTCAGT AGGGATTACTT ATATTTTCTG CTAAGAATTG AGACCTTAA 23590
	AAAAGGTATG TCTCTTGTAA TGTCCTTAAC TCACTAACAGC CTACTTCTTAT TGCTGTGTTT TATTTTATTT 23660
40	TATTATTTAT ATTAGGAGATG GTGTCCTACTG TCTCACCCGG GTTGTAGTGT AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 23730
	GTGTCAGGGC CAAACCCCGA GGCTCAAGTS ATCTCCGGC CTGACCTCTC CAGAGTCTGCG GGATTCACAG 23800
	TGTGAGCTGG CGCCCTTGGC TTGGCCTTAAAT AAAAACCTAC AGTGAATAGTC AGGTCCTAGTC GCTTCACAC 23870
	CTGTCATCCCG AGTAGTTGGT GGAGGGGGGG CAGAGGGATG GTCTGGGGGG AGGGAGTTGA GACGACCTAG 23940
45	GTTACATAGC GGAGGGCCCCA TCTCTACAAA AAATGAAAAG AGTTATCTGGG GCCTGGGGGG CAGCATCTGT 24010
	AGTCCTCAGT CCTGGGGGG TGAGTGGGGAG AGGGCTCTG AGGGGGGGGG GTCTGGCTG CAGTGGAGGG 24080
	TGATTTGACT ATGCGACTCC AGCTCTGGCA AGCAAGTGG AGCCCTGTGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 24150
	RAAGGAGAGG AGAAGAGGAG AGAAGGAGAG AGAAGGAGAG AGAAGGAGAG AGAAGGAGAG AGAAGGAGAG 24220
	AGGGAGGGGG CCTGAGTGGT AGGTAGACTG TCTAACATTC GAGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 24290
50	AGGGAGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 24360
	ACAGGGGGGG ACCCTGGGG TTTCAGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 24430
	GTGAGACAGC CGGAGGGGG TGAAAGGAG TGCTTCTTCTT CTGGCTCTG CCCCCAGCTG CTGGCGCTGC 24500
	TGCACTCTGT CTGACCTGGC ATCTGGTGC CAGGGGGGCCA AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 24570
	CAAACTTTGT TGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 24640
	CCCTGGCTCT TCTCTGGAA CTGGTGTGAGT GGGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 24710
	AATCAACGGC CGGATCTGAG TGCTACCTGG ATTATCTGGT GGCGCTTGTAGA TTGGCCACAAAG 24780
	GTCTGGCTAGA AGTGGAGGAG GGAGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG AGGGGGGGGG 24850
	GTGGCTCTTG AGATGGAGGA GGGGGGGCCC AGGCAAGGAAGA TGGGGGGGGGG CGCTCCATGC TGGAAGAGCA 24920
	AGCACTATCTC CCGGGCTCTG AGGGGGGGGG CCCTCTGCCA CGGGCTCTGATT TGAGGCTAGT GGGGGCTCTG 24990
	TCAGCTTCTC GGCCCTCCAGA GCTGTAAGAT GATGCGTTTG TGTTCAAGCA CTAGGCTGCA GTGATTCTGC 25060
	ACAGCAGCAA ATGGAAATAGC AGTACAGGGGA AATGAATACA GGGGAGCTTC TCAGAGTGC TCTCAGGCCA 25130
	CCCCCTGGG 25138

Example 5

55 Comparison of the above-described genomic hTC sequence and the sequence of the hTC cDNA (Fig. 6; corresponding to SEQ ID NO 2) made it possible to elucidate the exon-intron structure of the hTC gene. The genomic organization of the hTC gene is illustrated diagrammatically in Fig. 7. The coding region of the hTC gene is composed of 16 exons which vary in size between 62 bp and 1354 bp (see Table 1)

60 Exon 1 contains the translation start codon ATG. The translation stop codon TGA and the 3'-untranslated region lie on exon 16 (Fig. 8). No possible polyadenylation signal (AATAAA) was found either in exon 16 or in the 3195 bp of the following

3'-flanking region. The exon-intron transitions were determined on the basis of the consensus sequence

		5'-Exon			Intron			3'-Exon		
5	Pre-mRNA	A/C	A	G		G	T	A/G	A	... N C A G G
	Frequency (%)	70	60	80	100	100	95	70	80	100 100 60

and listed in Table 1. With the exception of the 5' splice site between exon 15 and intron 15, all the exon-intron transitions are in accord with the published (Shapiro and Senapathy, 1987) splice consensus sequence. The sizes of the introns are between 104 bp and 8616 bp. Since only part of intron 6 was isolated, it is not possible to determine the precise length of the hTC gene. Based on the part sequence of ~4660 bp, which was obtained from intron 6, the minimum size of the hTERT gene is 37 kb.

Introns 1-5 and the 5' region of intron 6, are contained in contig 1:
Intron 1: bp 11493-11596 (SEQ ID NO 4);
Intron 2: bp 12951-21566 (SEQ ID NO 5);
Intron 3: bp 21763-23851 (SEQ ID NO 6);
5 Intron 4: bp 24033-24719 (SEQ ID NO 7);
Intron 5: bp 24900-25393 (SEQ ID NO 8);
5' region of intron 6: bp 25550-26414 (SEQ ID NO 9).

The 3' region of intron 6, and introns 7-15, are located in contig 2 at the following
10 positions:
3' region of intron 6: bp 1-3782 (SEQ ID NO 10);
Intron 7: bp 3879-4858 (SEQ ID NO 11);
Intron 8: bp 4945-7429 (SEQ ID NO 12);
Intron 9: bp 7544-9527 (SEQ ID NO 13);
15 Intron 10: bp 9600-11470 (SEQ ID NO 14);
Intron 11: bp 11660-15460 (SEQ ID NO 15);
Intron 12: bp 15588-16467 (SEQ ID NO 16);
Intron 13: bp 16530-19715 (SEQ ID NO 17);
Intron 14: 19841-20621 (SEQ ID NO 18);
20 Intron 15: 20760-21295 (SEQ ID NO 19).

The 3'-untranscribed region is also located in contig 2 at position 21960-25138 (SEQ
ID NO 20).

25 The individual sequences of the abovementioned introns are as follows:

002100-002215-002226

Intron 1 (SEQ ID NO 4)

GTGGGCCTCCCGGGTCCGGCTCCGGCTGGGTTGAGGGCGCCGGGGGAACAGCGACATGCGGAGAGCAGCGAGG
CGACTCAGGGCGCTTCCCCCGAG

5 Intron 2 (SEQ ID NO 5)

GTGAGGGAGGTGGTGGCGCTGAGGGCCCAGAGCTGAATGCACTGGCTCAGAAAAGGGGCAGGCAGGCC
CTGGTCTCTCTGTCATCGTACAGTGGCACAGTGGCTTCAGGCTCAGGGCTTGAGTCAGGACACGGTATCTGCC
TCGTCTCTCTGTCAGTGGCATAACTTACGGGTTACCTTCAGGGTTGAGGCGAGCTGGGAGAATGGTGGAAAG
CGAGGCGAGGAGTGGACAGAGGAGCTGGGAGCTGGGAGGAGTGGAGGAGCTGGGAGAATGGTGGAAAG
10 CACAGACGCTCTGGCGAGGGTGCCTCAGGGTACCTATACTCTTCAGGAAATTCAAGGGTGGAAATGAGGAGTGGGA
CGAGAACCCCTCTTCTGGGGTGGAGGTAAAGGTTTGAGGTGACAGTGGTCAAGGAAATAGCAGGTTGTITA
AGAATTATTGTGTTGACGGCCAGGTGCTGAGCTCAGGGCTTAATCCACACTTGGGAAGCTGAGGCGAGTGG
TCACCTGAGGTGAGGAGTGGAGACAGCTGACCAAATGGTACTCTGACTAAAAAAATACAAAAAAATCTGCC
GGCATGGTGTGCTGCTGTAATTCCAGCTACTGGGAGGCTGAGGAGGAGTCACTGAGACCCAGGGGG
15 TGCACTGAGCTGAGATTGTCATTGACTTACAGGCTGGGAGCAAGAGTGAACACTCTGCTTTTAAAAAAAGTGT
CGTTGATTGTCAGGACAGGGTAGAGGGAGGAGATAAGACTGTTCTCAGGACAGATCTGGTCCATTTAGGTAT
GAAGAGGGCCACATGGGAGGAGACAGCAGCTGGCACCAGTGGGAGGAGCTGGTGTGGTGTGAGGG
ATGGTCTGCTGGGGCTGGCTGTCCTGGGGCTGTTTCTGGATTGATTTGAGGANCTCCGCTCAGCCCCCTT
20 TGGCTCCAGTGTCTCCAGGGCTTACGGGCTGGCTGTCCTGGGGCTTCTTTCTTTCTTTCTTTCTTTATGGTGGC
AAAGTCATATAACRTGAGATTGGCACTCTAACACGGTTTCTGTGTAAGCTGCAAGATTGCTAACTCGGGGTGTTA
CAGCAGGGTGTGAAATGCTGGCTTCTGGCTGAGTGGACAGGACCTACCCATGAGGCACTGGCTCACACTGTG
GGCTCAGGTGGACCCGGCTGGAGTCAAGGCTATGCAAGGACCTTCTGGCTTCTGGCTCAGGAGGCTGGTGGAG
25 GAGAGTTGAGTTCTGATCAGGACTCTGCTGTCATTGTTCTGACTTCAGATGAGGTCACATCTGCCCTGG
CTTATGAGGGAGTGAGGCGTGTGCCCCGGGTGTCCTGTCACGTGCAAGGTGAGTGAGGCGTGTGCCCCAGGTGCTT
GTCACTGTAAGGGTAGTGGCGGG
30 CCCGTCACTGTTAGGGTAGTGGCGGGCCATGG
GTGTCCTGCTGGGGCTGGGGTAGGTGGAGGCACTGTCCCCGGGTGTCCTGTCAGTGGCAGGGTAGTGGAGGGGG
CCCCGGTGTCCCCTCTCAGGTGTAGGGTAGTGGAGGCACTGTCCCCGGGTGTCCTGTCAGTGGCAGGGTAGTGGAGGG
35 CGCAGCTGGTGTCCCCTCCAGGTATAGGGTAGTGGAGGCACTGTCCCCGGGTGTCCTGTCAGGTGCAAGGGTAGTGG
CGCAGGG
GAGGGCTGTGCCCCAGGTGTGTCCTGGGGTTGTCACTTGGCTGAGCTGGTCTCTGTAATGTTGCTTTCTATAGC
GCCGGGGTGTGCCCATGGCTGGGGTAGTGGCTGAGGCACTGTGCTGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
40 TCTGGTCACCTCTGGTCCATTGGTACAGGGACACGGGACTGCAAGCTCTCGCCCTCCGGTGCAGGGACTCGAG
CCACAGCTTCAAGGGTGGCTGGCTCTGGTCAAGGCTGGGCTGGCTGTCACAGGCTGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
TCTCCCGCTGTGCTCATGGCGAGGGTGGACTCTGGGGCTGGTCTGTCAGGCTGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
AGGGTTCTGTGCCCATGGAGGAAAGCAAGTCAACCCAGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
45 TTGGCCCCCTGG
CCAGTGCAGGG
GAGGG
TTTCTATCTCTCCATTGTATGTTGTTTCTGGGGTTATTCTTCTGTTCTGGCTGAGTGGTGTGAGTGGTGTGAG
CTCTGGCTGGCTTACCTGCAACCTGG
ATACCTCAAGGTAAACTCTTTAAAGTATCTTATCTGTGATTTTTCTTGTGCACTGGCTGTGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
50 ATGATTTGAGTATCAGTGTGACTTTAAAGTATCTTGTGAGTGGTATCTTGTGAGTGGTATTTGAAGGACACT
GTTATGTTCAAGATGTAGAGTATCAAGATACTGGAGTATTTGAAGTGTGAGTGGTATTTGAGTGGTATTTCTA
TGTGAGTGGTGTGATTAATACCAATTATTTGAAGTGTGGGGAGGCTGGTTGTGAGTGTGAGTGGTGTGG
AACTGTGTCATTGTAATTGACATCTGTCAATAGTGGGAGTGCATTTCACTATACAGCTTTAAGGTCAGTGTCA

AAAGTTCTGTCCTCTAGATGCATGAATTCCAAGAAGGAGGCCATGTCCTCACCTGGGGATGGGTCTTCATT
 TCTTCGTTGGTAGCATTTATGTGAGGCATTGTTAGGTGATGCACGGTGTAGAAATTATTTATCTCCTGATGAGTGA
 TCTTTGGAGACTCTATGTCCTAGTAATCTAGTAATTCTTTTAAATTGCTCTTACTGCCACACTGGGCTCT
 TTGTTAGTAGTATTCTCTGTCGTTGCTGTTCTGCCCTAAATTATAATATAATATAATTCTTCTGAGACA
 5 GAGTCCTGGTCTGTCGCCAGGGTGAGTCAGTGGCTGATCACAGGTAGCTTAACCTTACCTGGCTGAGCGT
 CCTCACCTCACCTCTGAGTAGCTGAACCTGGCAGCACGCCAACCTGGCTAACCTTAAATTCTGGA
 GACAGGGCTTGTGCTGTTGCCAGGTGGTCTCAAACCTTGGACTCAAGGGATCATCTACCTGGCTTCCAAGTG
 CTGAATTACAGGCATGAGCACCATCTGGCTAACTTCAACACTTTAATTCTTAACTTGTGGGTATGTCCTGTA
 10 ACAGCATGAGTTGAACTTCCAACTCAGCTGACAGTCAGTGGTGTAACTGGATAACCTGATTATTTCTGTA
 ACTAGACAGGCCCTGGTGTGCACTGTTAGTCTGCTGTTGACTGTCCTGTTCTGGTCACTGGCAATTGCTTT
 GTTGTGCGATGCGTTCTCGCCAGTGTGTGATCTCTGTTGCTCTGGTCACTGGCAATTGCTTTATTCT
 CTTGCTTAGTGTACCCCTCATCTTTATTGTCGTTGCTTGTGTTATTGAGACAGTCACTGTGACCCA
 GGCTGGAGTGTGACCATCTGCCACTGCAACCTCTGCCCTCTGGCTCAAGCAGTCTATTCCCTAACCTCA
 15 TGAGTACTGGGATTACAGGCCACACCCAGCTGGTGTGTTCTGGTCACTGGTCTTCCCTACAGTGTGAGGATT
 TGCCAGCTGGCTCAACACTGCTGACTGCAAGTGTGCTGGGCCCCCTGGCTCCACAGTGTGAGGATT
 AGTGTATTAGTGTGACCCCTGACCTTAAATTGAGTGTGAACTTGTGTTCTGGTCACTGGTCTTACCTGACA
 CCCCAACAGCTAACGATTAAATTAAATTGTTCTGGTGTGAGTGTGCTTCTGGGCCCCCTGCTTCTGCTC
 20 TTGTTGCTGGTAAACCCCAGCTTACCTGCTGCTGCCATCTGGCATCTAGGCTACCTGGCTGAGTGTGTT
 ACAGATGAAGATGTGGAGACTCACGAGGAGGGCGTCACTTGGCCCGTGTGAGTGTGCTGGAGCAC
 CAGTGGCCAGCTTCCTGGCTGGGAGGCTGGCTTACGGCTGGGAAACCCAGGGCATGGGCTGCTGCTG
 CCGGGTGTGAGTTGAAATGGCAACCTGGCTGTGCTGGGCCCCCTGGCTTCTGGTCTCTGGTCTGCTG
 25 CTCTCTCTCTGGTGGAGGAGGCTGGCTTAATCCAGCTGGCTGGGAGGCTGGCTTACGGTGTGCTGGG
 ATGGTGTGAGGGTCAAGGGTCAAGGACATCTGGCAACATGATGAAACCCCCATGTAACAAAACACAAA
 TGCCGCTGGGGGGTGGCTTAATCCAGCTGGCTGGGAGGCTGGGAGGAGATGGCTGACCTGGGAGGTGGAA
 GTGAGTGG
 30 AAAAAGGG
 GCCAGCATGTCACCCATCATTTAGGGTGTATTGGGGAGCATCCTACAGGACATTGACATTGGAGC
 TTGTTGCTGGGGATCCGGTGTAGGTCCGGTGCCTGACCTCTGGCTTCCCTGGGATCTGGCATGGCT
 GTGTAACCGAGGTGGCTGG
 35 TCTGGGGATGG
 TGTTGGTGTGG
 GTGAGGTGG
 40 GGGGGTGAAGGTGCCAGGCCCTGGTGGAGTGTGAGTGTGCTGGGTGAGGTGTGAGTGTGCTGGG
 GGG
 AGGCCCTGG
 GTGG
 45 AGACCCCTGGTGTGAGCTGGATATGG
 GTATGG
 GCAGGGTCTGG
 SCAGGG

Intron 4 (SEQ ID NO 7)

5 GTGGCTGTGTTGGTTAACCTCTTTAAACAGAAGTCGGTTGAGCCCCACATTGGTATCAGCTAGATGAAGGG
CCCCGAGGGGGGCCACGGGACACAGCCAGGGCTGCAGCGCCACACCCATTGTCGACAGTCAGGTGGCCGAGG
TGGGGCTGCCCTCAGAAAAGCAGCTGGGGTGAGGGGACTCTGGGGCAGGGACAGGCTCTGGGGACACAGAAGG
CAGCCGGCCAGGGCTTGTAGCAGCACGGCCAGGGCTGGCTGGGACCTGGTCTGGCTCTGGGGCAGGGCTCTGGGT
TCCGGCTTACGGGGCCGGGACCAGGGCACAGGACCTGGCAGGAGGACCCAGGGCTCTGGGGATCTGGGACCTTGGCCACGG
CTCCTGACCCCACCCCTGTGGCTCGGGTGGCTGGGTGACCCCTGATCTGGAGGAGAGTGTGGGGTGAGGTGGACAGAG
GTGGCATGAGGATCTCCCTGTGCAACACATGGGCCAGGAACCCGTTTCACAAACAGGGCTCTGGGGAGCTGGAGGGGG
10 TTCTAGTCCGGGCTGGGTGGGACACTGGGGAGGGCTGGCTCTCCCTGGTCCCTATGGTGGGGTGGGCAC
TTGGCCGGATCCACTTCTGACTGTCCTCCCATGTCCTGGCCCGAG

Intron 5 (SEQ ID NO 8)

15 GTGGGTGCCGGGACCCCGTGAGCAACCTGCTGGACCTGGGAGTGGCTGCCTGATTGGCACCTCATGTTGGGTGGAG
GAGGTACTCTGGTGGGCCAGGGAGTCAGGTGACCCCTGTCACTGTGAGGACACACCTGGCACCTAGGGTGGAGC
CTTCAGCCCTTCTCGCAGCACATGGGCCGACTGTGACCCCTGACTIONGCCGGGCTCTTATTCGAGGGGGTCCACTG
GATTCCAGTTCCTGGTCAAGAGAAGGAAACCCGCAACGGCTCAGGCCAACGGGCCCCGGTCTGGCTGCACCCAGTCCTGGACAG
GGGTCTCTGTCTGGGCTCAGAGGGGACACAGGGCCCCCTGGCTTCTGGGTCTGGAGTGTGGGGTCAGAGAG
AGTGGGGGACACCCGCCAGGGCAGGGCTGAGGGCAGAGGTGATGTCTGAGTTCTGGCTGGCCACTGTCACTCTCCGC
CTCCACTCACACAG

5'-region intron 6 (SEQ ID NO 9)

25 GTAAAGTTCACGTGATGTCGTCAGGATGTGCTCTCTGGGATATGAATGTCCTAGAATGCAGTCGTGCTG
ATSCGTTCTGCTGGAGGACTTCCATGATTACACATGATTCGATGTTGCGTGTGCCACGCTGTGCTGCTGGCAT
GTATCTGTGCGTCATATTGGTGTGTTGCTGTCGTCGACGCTGTGTCCTGGTGTGCTGCTGGTGTGCGAT
TGTGTCGTTGCTGACCGCTGATTCGTCGATGTCATGGCCTGGGTTGTCGTCGATGTCGCTGCTGCTGCTGAT
GTGTCGGTGCACATATGGCTGTTGTCGTCGATGTCGTCGATGTCGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTGAT
GCACCATTTGCTCACGGCTCGGGTGTGGTTGGGAGCTCACATTGGCTCTCACTTCTAGCATGGGTGCCCT
GTCTGTACAGGGCTGGCCCTGGAGACTGTAAGCCAGGTTGAGAGGAGAGTAGGGATGTCGTTGTGACCTTCTGGA
CCCCCTGGCACCCCCAGGACCCAGTCTGGCTATGCCGGCTCCATGAGGATTAAGGAAGGCTGATTCAGGCTCTGGCTCCC
30 GGGACACACTCTCCCGAGGCCGGGGCTGGGCTGCGCAGGGGTGAAAGGGCCCTGGGTTGGGCTTCCCC
AGTGGCTATGRCGACGCTGGAGGGTAAAGCTCAAGTCTGCGCAGGGGTGAAAGGGTGAAGAAGTATCCCTGGA
GCTTCGGCTGGGAGGGCACATGCTGGAAACCAAGGACTCTTCCTGACTCTGAGCT

3'-region intron 6 (SEQ ID NO 10)

GGCCCTGTGGCCCTTGAGATCTGGTCTGCCAGTGGCCCTGTGGCTTTGAGATGCCGTGTTAGCACTTGCTCGGC
TCTAGGGGACAGTCGTGTCACCGCATGAGGCTCAGAGACCTCTGGCGGAATTCTCTGGCTCCAGGGTGGGGGGAG
GTGGCCCTGGGCTGCTGGGACCCAGACCTCTGGCCCGACGCTGCCAACACTCTGTGATCACATATGCCATCGGGCA
CGGTGGCTGTGTGGGGTGTGAGCCAGCTGCCAGGCCACAGGTGGCCCAGGGAGACCTCTGTGTCACACACTCTGCTAA
GCCCATGTGTGTCAGAGACTGCCCGGCCAGCCCCAGATGGCCCTGCACTTCAGCCCCAGCCCCACTTCATCACA
AACACTGTACCCCCAAAAGGGAGGGTCTTGGCCACGTGGTCTGCCGTGTCAGCACCCACCGGCTACTCCATGTG
TCTCCCGTCTGCTTCCAG

Intron 8 (SEQ ID NO 12)

Intron 9 (SEQ ID NO 13)

GGGAGACAGGGAAAGCACCCGAACTCTGGAGCAAGGCTGGGTCAAGGCTCTCGAGACTCTGCCAAGGCCAGCACCT
GCTCCAAATCACCACCTCTCTGGGGTTTCAACAGGATTTAACAGGGTGTCAAGGTACCTCTGGGTGACGGCCCCGCA
TCCTGGGGTGTACATTGGGGCTCTGGCTTAG

5 Intron 11 (SEQ ID NO 15)

GATGCCCTCATCTGGAGACACCATGTCGCACTCACTGGACCCCTGTAGCTGGCACCCTG
GCTCTTCCATCCCCTGAGRTCACAAACAGCTGGAGTTCCTCCACGCCAACACTGAGTCAC
ACCTGTTCTCATCGAGGAGGCCCGGGAGCAGGCTCCACGATTATATGTTTGGCTGAGTTGAGTC
TCATCAGGGCAGATGATGAGTCACAAACAGGGCGCTGCGAGGTTGGATACACTCACACTGAGGCTGGT
5 GAGTTTGCTGATCAGCAGTCTGGATGCTGAGTTCCTGGAGTCAGGAGTCAGGAGTCAGCCCCCTGGCTGCAGC
GCATGCCCGAGGAGCAAGGAAGCGGGAGGAAGCAGGAGGCTTGGAGCAAGCTTGCAGGAGGGGCTGGT
GGGCAGGCACCTGTGTAGCATTCCCCCTGTGTCAG

Intron 12 (SEQ ID NO 16)

10 GTGAGCAGGGCTGTGGTCAGCACAGAGTTCAAGGTTCAAGGGGTGTGCGCAAGTATGTGTGTGTGCGCGGT
GCCCTGGAAGGCTGTGTGACTGGCTGCACGTAAGGTGCACTATGTCGGCATATACTGGCAACATGTCATGTCAT
GTGTCATACATGAAGGCTATGGCAGTTGTGCAAGGGTGTGCAAGGGCATACTGGCAACATGTCATGTCAT
TGCATGTGTCGTGCAAGCTGTGGCATTTCAGCTGAGGTGCACTGGTGTGCACTGGTGTGAGTCAGCATGTGTCAT
GCACATACATGTTAGGGGGTCTCTGGTACCCCGCTAGGTTCTCAGCACCATGGCCACTCTTCAAGGATGAGAC
15 GGGGTCACAGGGCTTGTGGCTGAGGCTCTGAAAGCTGCAAGGGCTTGTCCCCTGGGCATCCGGCTCCACT
CCCTCTCTGTGGCTTGTGTCACCTCCCCCTCTCTGTGGCATTTACRTCCACTCCCTCTCTGTGGC
ATCCGGCTCCTCCCCCTCTGTGGCATCTGGCTCCACCTCCCCCTCTGTGGCATTTGGCTCCTCTCTCT
GGTCTCTCTGTGGCCCTGGGGCTGGGGCAGATGACACAGAGTCAGTGTGACTGGCCAGGGTGTGCACTGGT
CCGGTGAGGGCAAGGGGATTTCTGGGAGAGGGTAGTTCTCTTCTCAAACTTCTCTTCTGGTTCAGCTGAG
20 ATGGAAATGATAAAGGAAAAGTAAACCTAAATCCAGAGGGTTCTACGGTTCTCACTCTTCTGGCAGACTAG

Intron 13 (SEQ ID NO 17)

GTGAGCCGCCACCAAGGGGTGAGGCCAGCCTCCAGGGACCTCCCGCCTCTGCACCTCTGACCCGGGCTCACCT
TGGAACTCTGGTTTATAGGGCAAGGAATGCTTACCTGGTTCAGGGTCTGCTGCACACTCTGTTCGGCTG
35 GCTCTGTGAAAGACCTTCTTCATCTGGGTAGGGTACGGGACCTCATGGGGCAGGGGGCATGGGTTAAGAGATTTATGGGGAGTTAG
GCACCTGGCGTGGAGCATCTGGGGCAGGGGGCATGGGGGCAAGGGGGCATGGGTTAAGAGATTTATGGGGAGTTAG
CAGAGGGAGCTGGAGGTGCTGACAGTAGATGGGAGATCAGATGCCGGAGGATTGGGGTCTCAGCAAAGAGGGCC
GAGGGGGTGCAAGGTGAGGGTCTGGCCCCACCCCGGGAGGGTGCAGCAGAGCTGGCTCCCAAACAGGCCGGCA
GCACCTGTGCTCTGGGATGGCTGTGCTCTGGGAGCTTCTCTGGCTGTCAGGGGGTGGCCCTGGCAAGATCG
30 ACAACATTACAGAGGGAGGGCAATCTGTGGGACCCAGGGGGCATCTGGCTCTGGCTGTCAGGGGGTGGCCCTGGCAAGATCG
ACAAGGCTGGGGCTGTACCAAAAGGGCAGTGAGGGGCCACAGGGGGCTCCACCAACAGGGCTCCGGAGGACTG
GGAGCTGAATGCCAGGGGGCGAAGGCCCTCGCCCATGAGGGCTGAGAAGGGATGTGAGCATTTGTTAACCCAGGGCG
AGGCTGCGGAATTACCGTGCACACTTGATGTGAATGAGGGCTGCTGTCATCTGGAAAACCCAGCAAGGGCTCAAGGG
SAGTTTCCAATCAAGGGATGCTTACCATGGAAAATGGTTTAACTGGGAGCTGCTGGCCCTTCATGCTCTGGCAGGGGGC
35 AGAGGCCACAGCTGCTGATCTGGGGCTTGGCAGGCTTCAGGGCTGGGGACAGGGGGTGTGCTGAGCTTGGGTGCTCC
GGCTGCAAGCCCTCTCTGCTTCTCTGCTCAATCTTCCCTGCTGTTCTCCCTGAGGGCTGGCTGGGGCTGG
CCCTGTCAGCTGCTTCTGACTCTTCCGGAAACCTTGGGGTGTGCTGGATAACAGGTGCCACTGAGGACTGGAGGTG
CTGACACTGTTGGTACCCCAGGGTCAAGCTGGGTCTGGGCTCTCTGGGCAATGAGGGTCAAGAGGGATTTCC
CAGGTAAAATCTCTGGGAAATCTCCGGGCACTGTGACCTGGGCACTCTGGCTCTCTGGGCAATGAGGGTCAAGAGGGATTTCC
40 ATTTCCCAACAGGGTCTCTAGCTGGGAGCTGGGCACTGGGCTCTGGGCAATGAGGGTCAAGAGGGATTTCC
CCAGTGGGACTCCCTGGGAGTCCGGTGTGGGAGCTGGGCTGAGGGCCAGATCGATGGGCAACGGGGCTTTCCA
AACACAGAGTAGGJACGTGGAAGGCCAGGAATCCCTTCCCTGAGGCAAGGAGTGGJAGAAGCAGGAGCTGGGGCC
ATTTCAGGGCAGCCAGCTGCTGGGCACTGGGCTCTGGGCTGGGCAACGGGGCTGGGCAATTCAGGGCAACGGGGCTTTCCA
TGGGGCTGGCTCTGGGCGGGCTGGGCGGGCTGGGCAACGGGGCTGGGCAACGGGGCTGGGCAACGGGGCTGGGCAACGGGGCTTTCCA
45 TATTTGGGGCTGGGGCTGGGCAACGGGGCTGGGCAACGGGGCTGGGCAACGGGGCTGGGCAACGGGGCTGGGCAACGGGGCTTTCCA

Intron 14 (WEQ ID NO 18)

20 GTATGCGAGCTGCCCTGCGCTCAGTGGCACAGTCGCCTGCGCTGGTAGTGTCAAGGAGACTGAGTGAATCTGG
CTTAGGAAGTTCTTACCCCTTTCGATCAGAAGTGTAAACCAACCATGTCAAGGCTCTGCTGCCGGCCCTCTGT
GGGGTGACAGAGCCACATGGAGAAGGGACAGGGACTGTCTGGAGGCTCCATCTTCCCACCTTGCTCGCTGGGG
GCGCTGGGGGGCTGGTCTCTCTTGTGGCCCATGGGGGGATTTGGGGGGCTTGGCTCTCTGTGTTGGGGCTGTGG
GATTGGCTGTCCTGGGCACTTGGGACTCTAGGGCCCTTGTGTCACAAACCCAGGGCAAGGGCTTAGGGAGGGCCAGGG
GCTACCCCCACCCCTCTCAGGAGCACAGGGCCGCGTATCACCCACGACAGAGCCCCGGCCGCTCTGCTCTCCAGTCACCG
TCCTCTGCCCTGGACACTTGTCCAGCATCAGGGAGGTTCTGTATCCCTGTGAATTCAAGGCACTGTGAGAACCTGGGT
CTCTGGACTTAAACAGCTTACTTCTTGTCTTCTGTGTTGGAAATTACCTGGAGAGGCGAAGAAACATTTCTG
TCGTGACTCTGGGTGCTGGGGGGCCAGAGATGGAGCCACGGGGCTGGGTGTTGGGGCTGGCTGGCTGGCTGG
GTTCTCTGGGGAGGGAGCTGGGCTGGCTGACTCTCAGGGCTCTGGGGCTGGCTGGCTGGCTGGCTGGCTGGCTGG

25

Intron 15 (SEQ ID NO 19)

GCAAGTGTGGTGAGGCCAGTGCAGGCCCCACCTGCCAGGGTATCCTTGACGCCCTGTGGGGCGAGCACCTC
AGATGCTGCTGAAGTGCAGACGCCCGGCCCTGACCCCTGGGGCTGGAGGCCACGCTGGCAGCCATGTGATTAAACG
CTGGTGTCCCAGGCCAGGACCTGGCAGGGTCCCCAACTCTTGACCCCTGCTCCCATCTCAGGGCGATGGCTCC
CCACGCTTGGAGCCCTTGACCCCTGACCTGTGCTCTCACAGCCCTTCCCTGGCTGCTGCCCTGACTCTGGGT
CCTGGCAAGCTTCTCCCGCCCGCCGCTCCAGCTTACGGCTGCCCTGCTGCTGCCCTGGAGGGTGTCTG
TCCCTTCACTGAGTTCCACCCAGGCCAGGAGCTGGCTGCCCTGGAGGGTGTCTGCTGCCCTGGAGGGTGTCTG
TTGGAGGTGCCACCTCTGGCTCTCTGGAGGAGCTGTGATTTTGCCGGCACACAGCTCCAGGAGGG

40 3'-untranscribed region (SEQ ID NO 20)

CGGGGAAAGATGGGGAAAGCTGGCTGGGCCCTCCTCCCTGCCTCCACCTGCAGCGGTGGATCCGGATGTGCTTCCCT
 GTGCACATCCTCTGGCCATCAGCTTCATGGAGGTGGGGGGCAGGGGATGACACCCTCTGTATAAAATCCAGGATT
 CCTCTCTGAACCCCCACTCAGGTTAAAGTCACATTCGCCCTCTGCCATTCTTAAGAGTAGACCAAGGATTCTG
 ATCTCTGAAGGGTGGTAGGTGGGCCAGTGAGGGTGTGGACACAGGAGGCTCAGGGTGGGGCTGGTGTAGCTCTC
 5 ATCTCTTATCATCTCCAGTCTCATCTCATCTTATCATCTCCAGTCTCATCTGTCTCTTATCTCCAGT
 CTCATCTGTATCCTTACCATCTCCAGTCTCATCTTATCTCTTATCTCTTACCTCCA
 GGGGGGGTCCAGCTGGAGCTGGACATACGGCTCTCAGGAGAAGGAACCTGGAGGATTCAGAGAACAC
 GAGGGGGGGCTCAGAGGGACCCGACTCTGGGTGTAGAAACAGCCCCCTCTCAGAAGTTGGCTTGGGACACGAACAG
 AGGGCCCTGGTGTAGTGGCTCAGACCTTCAGCAGGTTCTGGTGGGGCTTATGGTATGCCCGGTTACTGAGTG
 10 CACCTGGACAGGGCTCTGGTTGAGTGCAAGCCGGACGCTGGCTGTGGTGGGGTGGGGCTTATGCCACTGGATATG
 GCGTCATTATTGCTGTGCTTCAGAGAACTGCTGAGTGACCGAGGCTTAATGTGTATGGTGGCCCAAACCTCACAGACTG
 TGCTGAAATGCTCTGGTGTGGCCCTGGAGCCCCCTGATAGAGGCTGTGAGGAGGAGGGGGCTTCTGGCCACCGGGGG
 GCGCTTGGCTCAGGGAGGAGGG
 15 AGGGCGGGGACCTCCAGGAGCAGGGCGCTGCTCAGGACACACTGGTTGAATCACAGACCAACAGTCAGGCCATT
 GTTCACTCATCTTCTACAAAGCTCAGATTCTGTCTCCGGGTGTTTTGTTGAATTTACTCAGGATTACT
 TATTTTTGCTAAAGTATTAGACCCCTAAAGGTTATGCTTGTATGGCTTAACTCACTAACGACCTTAATT
 TTGCTCTTTTATTTATTTATTTATTTAGAGGATGGTGTACTCTGTCACCCAGGTGTAGCTGAGTGGC
 AGTCATGGCTGGCTGTAGCCGCAACCCCCAGCTCAAGTGTACTCTGGCTCTGGCTTCCAGACTGGTGGNTACAG
 GTGTGAGGCACTGCCCTGGCTGCCACTTAAAACACCTATGTAAGGTCAAGGTCAGGTCAGTGGCTTCCACACTGTCA
 20 CAGTAGTTGGGAAACCGAGGAGAAGGATTGCTGAGGGCAGGAGTTGAGACCAAGCATGGTAACTAGGGAGACCCC
 ATCTCTACAAAAAAATGCAAAAGTATCCGGGCGTGGGGTCCAGCATCTGTAGTCCAGCTGCTGGGGAGGTGAGTGG
 AGGATGCGCTGTAGCCGGGGAGGTCACTGGCTGAGCTGTGAGGATGGTGTACTCTGTCACCCAGCTGGGACACGAGTGA
 GACCCCTGCTCAAAAAAAAAAAAGAAGGAGAAGGAGAAGGAGAAGGAGAAGGAGAAGGAGAAGGAGAAGGAGAAG
 GAGAAGGAGAAGAAGGAGAAGGAGGCTGTAGGTGCTAGGTGACTGTCAAAACTCAGAGCAGGAAATTTAAACA
 25 AAAGTTTAAAGGGAAAGAAAAACCCAGCTTTGGACTCTCTTAGGCCTGAACTCTCATCTCAAGCAGCTTCCACCA
 GCAAGCGTGTATGGCGAGTGAGTCAAAGCAGAAAGGGAGGAGAAGCAGGCAAGGGTGGGGCTGTGGGTGACACCA
 GCAGGACCCCTGAAAGGGAGTGTGTTTCTGCCCTGCCCTGGGAGGATGCTGTCAGGGGGCTTCCACCTGCTTAACCGTC
 GATGTTGGTCCAGGTGCCCACCTGGAGGATGCTGTCAGGGGGCTTCCAAACATTGGTTGAGGACCTGGCAG
 GCACTTGTGCCAGGCAAACTACAGCCCCCTCCCAAAGATGCCACGTCCTCTCTCTGAACTTGTGAATGTGTCACCCG
 30 CAAGGAGGCTGGTGAAGGCTGAGGTTGAGGATCAGCTGCAAGGCTGAGGAGGAGGTGAGGAGGAGGAGGAGGAG
 CACTGGCCACTGCTGGCTTGTAGGTGAGGAGGGGTGCTCCAGGCAAGGAATGGGGCAGCCGCTCCATGCTGAAAGC
 AAGCAATCTCCCCGCTCTGAGGGCACAGGGGCTGCCAGGCTGATTCTGAGGACCTGGGACTGTTCACTTC
 CGGCTCCAGAGCTGAAGATGATGCCCTGTGTTGAGGACAGTCAAGCTGAGGTGACTCTGACAGCAGCAAATGGAAATAG
 35 CAGTACAGGGAAATGAATACAGGGACAGTTCTCAGAGTGAETCTCAGGCCACCCCTGGG

- Characterization of the exons showed, interestingly, that the functionally important hTC protein domains which are described in our Patent Application PCT/EP/98/03469 are arranged on separate exons. The telomerase-characteristic T motif is located on exon 3. The RT (reverse transcriptase) motifs 1-7, which are
5 important for the catalytic function of the telomerase, are located on the following exons: RT motifs 1 and 2 on exon 4, RT motif 4 on exon 9, RT motif 5 on exon 10, and RT motifs 6 and 7 on exon 11. RT motif 3 is shared by exons 5 and 6 (see Fig. 8).
- 10 Elucidation of the exon-intron structure of the hTC gene also shows that the four deletions or insertion variants of the hTC cDNA which were described in our Patent Application PCT/EP/98/03469, as well as three additional hTC insertion variants which are described in the literature (Kilian et al., 1997), in all probability represent alternative splicing products. As shown in Fig. 8, the splicing variants can be divided
15 into two groups: deletion variants and insertion variants.
- The hTC variants in the deletion group lack specific sequence segments. The 36 bp in-frame deletion in variant DEL1 in all probability results from using an alternative 3' splice acceptor sequence in exon 6, resulting in a part of RT motif 3 being lost. In
20 variant DEL2, the normal 5' splice donor and 3' splice acceptor sequences of introns 6, 7 and 8 are not used. Instead exon 6 is fused directly to exon 9, resulting in a displacement arising in the open reading frame and a stop codon appearing in exon 10. Variant Del3 is a combination of variants 1 and 2.
- 25 The insertion variant group is characterized by the insertion of intron sequences which lead to premature cessation of translation. Instead of the 5' splice donor sequence of intron 5, which is normally used, use is made, in variant INS1, of an alternative, 3'-located splice site, resulting in the insertion of the first 38 bp from
30 intron 4 between exon 4 and exon 5. The insertion, in variant INS2, of a region of the intron 11 sequence likewise results from using an alternative 5' splice donor sequence in intron 11. Since this variant was only described inadequately in the

literature (Kilian et al., 1997), it is not possible to determine the precise alternative 5' splice donor sequence in this variant. The insertion of intron 14 sequences between exon 14 and exon 15 in variant INS3 comes from using an alternative 3' splice acceptor sequence, resulting in the 3' part of intron 14 not being spliced.

5

The hTC variant INS4 (variante 4), which is described in our Patent Application PCT/EP/98/03469, is characterized by exon 15, and the 5' part region of exon 16, being replaced by the first 600 bp of intron 14. This variant can be attributed to the use of an alternative internal 5' splice donor sequence in intron 14 and an alternative 3' splice acceptor sequence in exon 16, resulting in an altered C terminus.

10

The *in vivo* generation of hTC protein variants which are probably non-functional and which could interfere with the function of the complete hTC protein constitutes a possible mechanism, in addition to transcription regulation, for controlling hTC protein function. The function of the hTC splicing variants is not yet known. Although most of these variants presumably encode proteins without reverse transcriptase activity, they could nevertheless play a crucial role as transdominant-negative telomerase regulators by, for example, competing for interaction with important binding partners.

15

The search for possible transcription factor binding sites was carried out using the „find pattern“ algorithm from the Genetics Computer Group (Madison, USA) GCG Sequence Analysis program package. This resulted in the identification of a variety of potential binding sites for transcription factors in the nucleotide sequence of intron 2, which binding sites are listed in Tab. 2. In addition, an Sp1 binding site was found in intron 1 (pos. 43), and a c-Myc binding site was found in the 5'-untranslated region (cDNA position 29-34, cf. Fig. 6).

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Example 6

In order to ascertain the start point(s) of hTC transcription in HL 60 cells, the 5' end of the hTC mRNA was determined by means of primer extension analysis.

- 5 2 µg of polyA⁺ RNA from HL-60 cells were denatured at 65°C for 10 min. 1 µl of RNasin (30-40 U/ml) and 0.3-1 pmol of radioactively labelled primer (5' GTTAAGTTGTAGCTTACACTGGTTCTC 3'; 2.5-8x10⁵ cpm) were added for primer annealing, and the whole was incubated, at 37°C for 30 min, in a total volume
10 of 20 µl. After the addition of 10 µl of 5xreverse transcriptase buffer (from Gibco-BRL), 2 µl of 10 mM dNTPs, 2 µl RNasin (see above), 5 µl of 0.1 M DTT (from Gibco-BRL) 2 µl of ThermoScript RT (15 U/µl; from Gibco-BRL) and 9 µl of DEPC-treated water, primer extension took place, at 58°C for 1 h, in a total volume [lacuna]. The reaction was stopped by adding 4 µl of 0.5 M EDTA, pH 8.0, and the
15 RNA was degraded, at 37°C for 30 min, after having added 1 µl of RNaseA (10 mg/ml). 2.5 µg of sheared calf thymus DNA and 100 µl of TE were then added, and the mixture was extracted once with 150 µl of phenol/chloroform (1:1). The DNA was precipitated, at -70°C for 45 min, after adding 15 µl of 3 M Na acetate and 450 µl of ethanol, and then centrifuged at 14,000 rpm for 15 min. The precipitate was
20 washed once with 70% ethanol, dried in air and dissolved in 8 µl of sequencing stop solution. After 5 min of denaturation at 80°C, the samples were loaded onto a 6% polyacrylamide gel and fractionated electrophoretically (Ausubel et al., 1987) (Fig. 5).
- 25 In this connection, a main transcription start site was identified which is located 1767 bp 5' of the ATG start codon of the hTC cDNA sequence (nucleotide position 3346 in Fig. 4). In addition to this, the nucleotide sequence around this main transcription start (TTA₋₁TTGT) represents an initiator element (Inr), which, in 6 out of 7 nucleotides, matches the consensus motif (PyPyA₋₁Na/tPyPy) (Smale, 1997) of an initiator element.
30

00000000000000000000000000000000

It was not possible to identify any unambiguous TATA box in the immediate vicinity of the experimentally identified main transcription start, which means that the hTC promoter has probably to be classified in the family of TATA-less promoters (Smale, 1997). However, a potential TATA box from nucleotide position 1306 to nucleotide 5 position 1311 (Fig. 4) was found by means of bioinformatics analysis. The subsidiary transcription starts which were additionally observed around the main transcription start have also been described in the case of other TATA-less promoters (Geng and Johnson, 1993), for example in the strongly regulated promoters of some cell cycle genes (Wick *et al.*, 1995).

10

Example 7

In addition to the start point of the hTC transcript which was described in Example 6 and identified in HL60 cells, a further transcription start region was also identified in 15 HL60 cells. With the aid of RT-PCR analyses, the region of the hTC gene transcription start in HL60 cells was localized to bp -60 to bp -105.

The cDNA for this was synthesized using a First Strand cDNA Synthesis kit (Clontech), in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and employing 0.4 µg 20 of HL60 cell polyA RNA (Clontech) and the gene-specific primer GSP13 (5'-CCTCCAAAGAGGTGGCTTCTCGGC-3', cDNA position 920-897). In a final volume of 50 µl, 10 pmol dNTP mix were added to 1 µl of cDNA, and a PCR reaction was carried out in 1xPCR reaction buffer F (PCR-Optimizer kit from InVitrogen) and using one unit of platinum Taq DNA polymerase (from Gibco/BRL). 25 10 pmol of each of the 5' and 3' primers defined below were added as primers. The PCR was carried out in 3 steps. A two-minute denaturation at 94°C was followed by 36 PCR cycles in which the DNA was first of all denatured at 94°C for 45 sec and, after that, the primers were annealed, and the DNA chain was extended at 68°C for 5 min. The cycles were concluded by a chain extension at 68°C for 10 min. In all, six 30 different 5' PCR primers (primer HTRT5B: 5'-CGCAGCCACTACCGCGAGGTGC-3', cDNA position 105 to 126; primer C5S:

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5'-CTGCGTCCTGCTGCGACGTGGGAAGC-3', 5'-flanking region -49 to -23; primer PRO-TEST1: 5'-CTCGCGCGCGAGTTCAAGCAG-3', 5'-flanking region -74 to -52; primer PRO-TEST2: 5'-CCAGCCCCCTCCCCTCCCTTCC-3', 5'-flanking region -112 to -91; primer PRO-TEST4: 5-CCAGCTCCGCCTCCCGC-3', 5'-flanking region -191 to -171; primer RP-3A: 5'-CTAGGCCGATTCGACCTCTCTCC-3', 5'-flanking region -427 to -405) were combined with the 3' PCR primer C5Rback (5'-GTCAGGGCACGCACACCAG-3', cDNA position 245 to 225). Genomic DNA was also employed for the PCR, as a control, in addition to the Oligo dT- and GSP13-primed cDNAs. As Fig. 9 shows, a PCR product was only obtained with the primer combinations HTRT5B-C5Rback, C5S-C5Rback and PRO-TEST1-C5Rback, indicating that the start point for hTC transcription lies in the region between bp-60 and bp-105.

15 **Example 8**

Several extremely GC-rich regions, so-called CpG Islands, are located in the isolated 5'-flanking region, of about 11.2 kb in size, of the hTC gene. One CpG Island, having a GC content of > 70%, extends from bp - 1214 into intron 2. Two further GC-rich 20 regions having a GC content of > 60% extend from bp -3872 to bp -3113 and from bp -5363 to bp -3941, respectively. The positions of the CpG Islands are shown graphically in Fig. 11.

The search for possible transcription factor binding sites was carried out using the 25 "Find Pattern" algorithm from the Genetics Computer Group (Madison, USA) GCG Sequence Analysis program package. This resulted in the identification of a variety of potential binding sites in the region up to -900 bp upstream of the translation start codon ATG: five Sp1 binding sites, one c-Myc binding site, and one CCAC box (Fig. 10). In addition, a CCAAT box and a second c-Myc binding site were found at 30 positions -1788 and -3995, respectively, of the 5'-flanking region.

Example 9

In order to analyse the activity of the hTC promoter, PCR amplification was used to generate four hTC promoter sequence segments of differing length, which segments were cloned into the Promega vector pGL2 5' in front of the luciferase reporter gene. The 8.5 kb SacI fragment which was subcloned from phage clone P12 was selected as the DNA source for the PCR amplification. In a final volume of 50 µl, 10 pmol of dNTP mix were added to 35 ng of this DNA, and a PCR reaction was carried out in 1xPCR reaction buffer (PCR-Optimizer kit from InVitrogen) and using one unit of platinum Taq DNA polymerase (from Gibco/BRL). In each case 20 pmol of the 5' and 3' primers which are defined below were added as primers. The PCR was carried out in three steps. A two-minute denaturation at 94°C was followed by 30 PCR cycles in which the DNA was first of all denatured at 94°C for 45 sec, after which the primers were annealed, and the DNA chain was extended, at 68°C for 5 min. The cycles were concluded by a chain extension at 68°C for 10 min. The selected 3' PCR primer was in each case the primer PK-3A (5'-GCAAGCTTACGCAGCGCTGCCTGAAACTCG-3', position -43 to -65), which primer recognizes a sequence region 42 bp upstream of the ATG START codon. A promoter fragment of 4051 bp in size (NPK8) was amplified by combining the PK-3A primers with the 5' PCR primer PK-5B (5'-CCAGATCTCTGGAACACAGAGTGGCAGTTCC-3', position -4093 to -4070). Combining the pair of primers PK-3A and PK-5C (5'-CCAGATCTGCATGAAGTGTGTTGGGATTGCAG-3', position -3120 to -3096) led to the amplification of a promoter fragment of 3078 bp in size (NPK15). Use of the primer combination PK-3A and PK-5D (5'-GGAGATCTGATCTGGCTTACTGCAGCCTCTG-3', position -2110 to -2087) amplified a promoter fragment of 2068 bp in size (NPK22). Finally, using the primer combination PK-3A and PK-5E (5'-GGAGATCTGATCTGGATTCCCTGGAAAGTCCTCA-3', position -1125 to -1102) led to the amplification of a promoter fragment of 1083 bp in size (NPK27).

The PK-3A primer contains a HindIII recognition sequence. The different 5' primers contain a BglII recognition sequence.

5 The resulting PCR products were purified using the Qiagen QIA quick spin PCR purification kit, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and then digested with the restriction enzymes BglII and HindIII. The pGL2 promoter vector was digested with the same restriction enzymes, and the SV40 promoter contained in this vector was released and removed. The PCR promoter fragments ligated into the vector, which was then transformed into competent DH5 α bacteria (from 10 Gibco/BRL). DNA for the promoter activity analyses, which are described below, was isolated from transformed bacterial clones using the Qiagen plasmid kit.

Example 10

15 The activity of the hTC promoter was analysed in transient transfections in eukaryotic cells.

All the work with eukaryotic cells was carried out at a sterile workstation. CHO-K1 and HEK 293 cells were obtained from the American Type Culture collection.

20 CHO-K1 cells were kept in DMEM Nut Mix F-12 cell culture medium (from Gibco-BRL, order number: 21331-020) containing 0.15% streptomycin/penicillin, 2 mM glutamine and 10% FCS (from Gibco-BRL).

25 HEK 293 cells were cultured in DMOD cell culture medium (from Gibco-BRL, order number: 41965-039) containing 0.15% streptomycin/penicillin, 2 mM glutamine and 10% FCS (from Gibco-BRL).

CHO-K1 and HEK 293 cells were cultured at 37°C in a water-saturated atmosphere 30 while being gassed with 5% CO₂. When the cell lawn was confluent, the medium was sucked off, after which the cells were washed with PBS (100 mM KH₂PO₄ pH

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7.2; 150 mM NaCl) and released by adding a trypsin-EDTA solution (from Gibco-BRL). The trypsin was inactivated by adding medium and the cell count was determined using a Neubauer counting chamber in order to plate out the cells at the desired density.

5

For the transfection, in each case 2×10^5 HEK 293 cells were plated out, per well, in a 24-well cell culture plate. The HEK 293 medium was removed after 3 hours. For the transfection, up to 2.5 µg of plasmid DNA, 1 µg of a CMV β-Gal plasmid construct (from Stratagene, order number: 200388), 200 µl of serum-free medium and 10 µl of transfection reagent (DOTAP from Boehringer Mannheim) were incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes and then dropped uniformly onto the HEK 293 cells. 1.5 ml of medium were added after 3 hours. The medium was changed after 20 hours. After a further 24 hours, the cells were harvested for determining the luciferase activity and the β-Gal activity. For this, the cells were lysed, at room temperature for 15 minutes, in the cell culture lysis reagent (25 mM Tris [pH 7.8] containing H₃PO₄; 2 mM CDTA; 2 mM DTT; 10% glycerol; 1% Triton X-100). Twenty µl of this cell lysate were mixed with 100 µl of luciferase assay buffer (20 mM Tricin; 1.07 mM (MgCO₃)₄ Mg(OH)₂·5H₂O; 2.67 mM MgSO₄; 0.1 mM EDTA; 33.3 mM DTT; 270 µM coenzyme A; 470 µM luciferin, 530 µM ATP), and the light generated by the luciferase was measured.

25

In order to measure the β-galactosidase activity, equal quantities of cell lysate and β-galactosidase assay buffer (100 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.3; 1 mM MgCl₂; 50 mM β-mercaptoethanol; 0.665 mg of ONPG/ml) were incubated at 37°C for at least 30 minutes or until a slight yellow coloration appeared. The reaction was stopped by adding 100 µl of 1 M Na₂CO₃, and the absorption was determined at 420 nm.

30

In order to analyse the hTC promoter, four hTC promoter sequence segments of differing length were cloned 5' in front of the luciferase reporter gene (cf. Example 9).

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- The relative luciferase activities of two independent transfections in HEK 293 cells, using the constructs NPK8, NPK15, NPK22 and NPK27, are plotted in Fig. 11. Each experiment was carried out in duplicate. The standard deviation has also been given.
- 5 The construct NPK 27 exhibits a luciferase activity which is 40 times higher than the basal activity of the promoterless luciferase control construct (pGL2-basic) and from 2 to 3 times higher than that of the SV40 promoter control construct (pGL2PRO). Interestingly, a luciferase activity which was from 2 to 3 times lower than that obtained with the NPK 27 construct was observed in cells which were transfected
- 10 with longer hTC promoter constructs (NPK8, NPK15, NPK22). Similar results were also observed in CHO cells (data not shown).

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SEQUENCE LISTING

Homo sapiens

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Patent Claims

1. Regulatory DNA sequences for the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit.

5

2. DNA sequences according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sequences are intron sequences in accordance with SEQ ID NO 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and/or 20 or fragments of these sequences which have a regulatory effect.

10

3. DNA sequences according to Claim 1, characterized in that the sequences are the 5'-flanking regulatory DNA sequence for the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit as depicted in Fig. 10 (SEQ ID NO 3), or fragments of this DNA sequence which have a regulatory effect.

15

4. Recombinant construct which contains a DNA sequence according to one of Claims 1 to 3.

20

5. Recombinant construct according to Claim 4, characterized in that it additionally contains one or more DNA sequences which encode polypeptides or proteins.

6. Vector which contains a recombinant construct according to Claim 4 or 5.

25

7. Use of recombinant constructs or vectors according to one of Claims 4 to 6 for preparing medicaments.

8. Recombinant host cells which harbour recombinant constructs or vectors according to one of Claims 4 to 6.

30

DRAFT 0222046, 0222045

9. Process for identifying substances which affect the promoter activity, silencer activity or enhancer activity of the human catalytic telomerase subunit, comprising the following steps:
- 5 A. adding a candidate substance to a host cell which harbours DNA sequences according to one of Claims 1 to 3, which sequences are functionally linked to a reporter gene, and
- 10 B. measuring the effect of the substance on expression of the reporter gene.
10. Process for identifying factors which bind specifically to the DNA according to one of Claims 1 to 3, or to fragments thereof, characterized in that an expression cDNA library is screened using a DNA sequence according to one of Claims 1 to 3, or subfragments of widely differing length, as the probe.
- 15 11. Transgenic animals which harbour recombinant constructs or vectors according to Claims 4 to 6.
- 20 12. Process for detecting telomerase-associated conditions in a patient, comprising the following steps:
- 25 A. incubating a recombinant construct or vector according to Claims 4 to 6, which additionally contains a reporter gene, with body fluids or cell samples,
- B. detecting the activity of the reporter gene in order to obtain a diagnostic value, and

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- C. comparing the diagnostic value with standard values for the reporter gene construct in standardized normal cells or body fluids of the same type as the test sample.

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Regulatory DNA sequences of the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit, and their diagnostic and therapeutic use

A b s t r a c t

This invention relates to regulatory DNA sequences, comprising promoter sequences and intron sequences, for the gene for the human catalytic telomerase subunit. In addition, this invention relates to the use of these DNA sequences for pharmaceutical, diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, especially in the treatment of cancer and ageing.

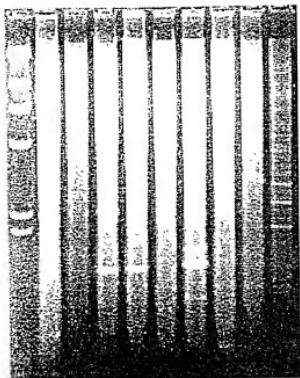
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- 1/15 -

Fig. 1

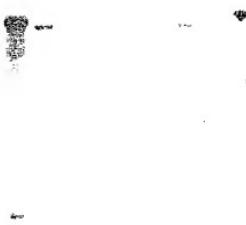
A

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



B

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

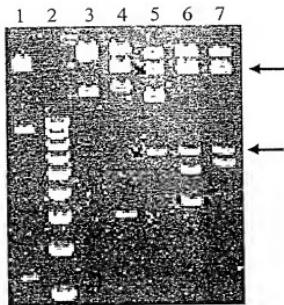


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Fig. 2



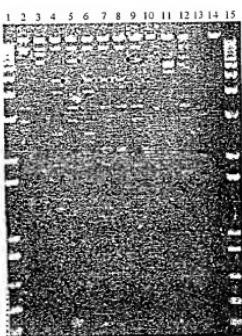
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Fig. 3

A



B

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14



Fig. 4

GACCTCTGAA	CCGTGGAAAC	GAACATGACC	CTTGCCTGCC	TGCTTCCCTG	GGTGGTCAA	GGTAATGAA	70
GTGCTGTCCC	GGAAATGGCC	ATGTAATTA	CACGACTCTG	CTGATGGGA	CGGTTCTTC	CAICATTATT	140
CACTCTCACC	CCCCAAGACT	GATGATRCC	ACGAACTCT	TGGGGTGTGA	CAAGCCATGA	CAAACATCAG	210
TACAAACACC	ACTCTTTAC	TAGGCCACA	GAGCACGGC	CACACCCCTG	ATATAATTAG	AGTCAGGAG	280
AGATGAGGCT	GCTTCAAGCC	ACCGGGCTGG	GOTGACAACA	CGGGCTGNAAC	AGTCIGTICC	TCTAGACTAG	350
TAGACCCCTG	CAGGCCACTCC	CCCCAATTCCT	AGGGCCCTGT	TCTGCTTC	CGAGGGCCG	ATCTGCCCTG	420
GRAGACTCAGC	CTGGGGTGGCC	ACACTGAGCC	CAGGGCTGTC	TCCACACCC	CCGGCTCCAG	GCTCAGCCTT	490
CTCCACGAGC	TTCCTAARACC	CTGGGTGGGC	COTGTTCCAG	CCTACTCTG	TACACTGTGTC	CACTGTGCT	560
TGTCAGGGC	ACCTAGTCG	CACGGCTCTC	CTCTACATGG	GGTGTGTC	TCTTCCCTCA	ACACTGACAT	630
GCCTGTAAGG	GAGGAGATTC	TGCGCTCTCC	AGACTGGCC	CTCTGAGGCC	GAACCTGGCT	CGTGGCCCC	700
GATGCAAGGT	CTGGCGCTCC	GGCTGACGC	TGACCTCAT	TTCAGGGC	TCCCCCTCTC	CTGTGATCTG	770
CCGGGGCTCC	CCGGGGTGTG	CTTCGTTTC	TGTCCTCTT	TCTACGTC	GCTGGCTGTG	TCTCTGCGG	840
CTAGGGTCTC	GGGGTTTTTA	TAGGCACTAGG	ACGGGGGGG	GTTGGGCCA	GGGCGCTTC	GGAAATGCAA	910
CATTGGGGT	TGAAAGTAGG	ATGCTGCTG	CTACCTAGG	TCAACGGCA	CAGGGCTTGGG	GATGGAGGCC	980
CCGGCAGGGA	CCCCCCTTC	TCTGGCCAGC	ATCTTCCTG	CCCCCTCTCC	CTGAAACACA	GATGGCAGT	1050
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CTGGGGAT	CAGCTGACTA	GGCACATCAT	TAACRACATC	CGCTTCAAGG	CGGACCCCCG	CTGTTTATT	1190
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CGCGATCTCTG	CTGGTACTCGA	GGCTTGCTG	CCACGATCTCA	AGTGGATCTC	TTCTTCTGG	CTCCCCATTG	3080
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TCTGAGGTAG	GAAGCTCACC	CCACTAAGT	GTGTTGGT	TTAAAGCCAA	GTAGAGAAT	TTTTTATGT	3360
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GCCAGCTTCT	GAATGAGTA	AAAGTATCAT	TTAAGGTTG	TTTGTAGTC	ATTCAGTGT	TTGCCGACCT	3920
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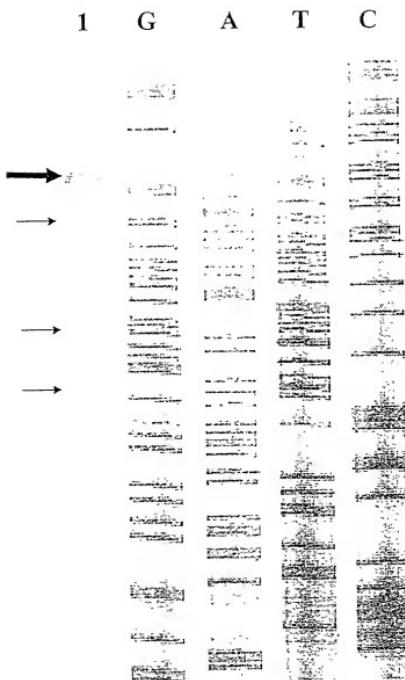
Fig. 4 (continued)

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GGACCCGGGC	ACCCGTCCTG	CCCTTCACCC	TTCAGGTCC	GCCCTCTCCG	CCGGGACCCC	GCCCCGTCCC	4970
GACCCCTCTCC	GGGTCCCCCG	CCCAAGCCCC	TCCGGGCCCT	CCCAAGCCCC	CCCCTTCTT	TCCGGGGCCC	5040
CGCCCTCTCC	TCCGGGCCCG	AGTTCAAGGC	AGCGCTGCCT	CCTGCTGC	ACGTGGQAAG	CCCTGGCCCC	5110
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Fig. 5



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Fig. 6

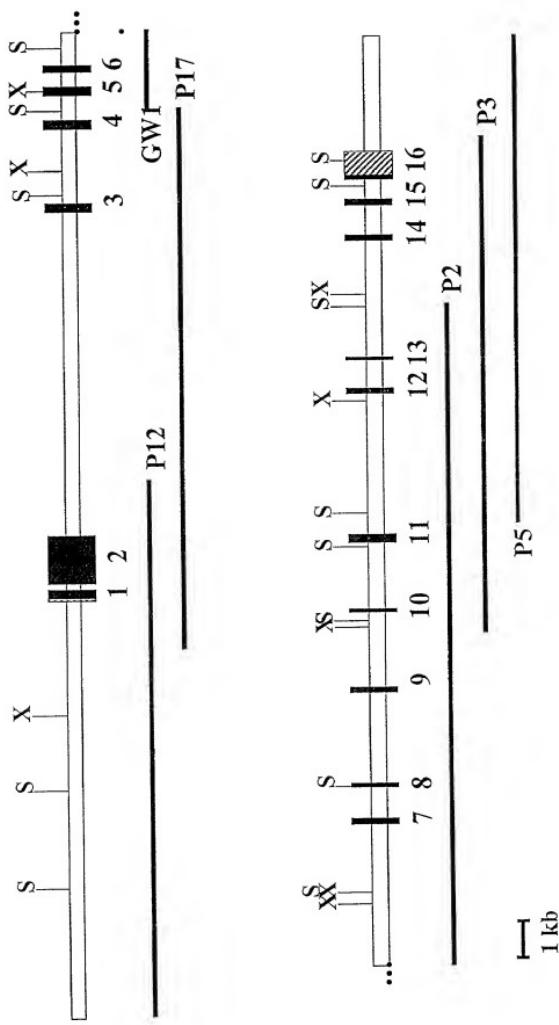
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TTGTCGGCG	CGCTGGGGGC	CAAGGGTGTG	CGGTGTTGCG	AGGGCGGGAA	CGCCGGGG	TTCGGCCGCG	210
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GTGCTCTGTA	GTATGGCTGC	GTGTTGACT	GGTGGAGGA	AGTGTGAC	TTCTCTGTAG	AGACAGGGC	2800
CTCTGGGGC	AGGGCTTGGT	TTCAGTGGC	GGGGCGGGC	CTATTTCTCT	GGTGGGCGCT	GTGCTGGGT	2870
ACCCGGGCC	TGGAGGTGCA	GAGCGACTAC	TCCAGCTATG	CCGGGACCTC	CATCGACGCC	AGTCTACCT	2940
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Fig. 7



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Fig. 8A

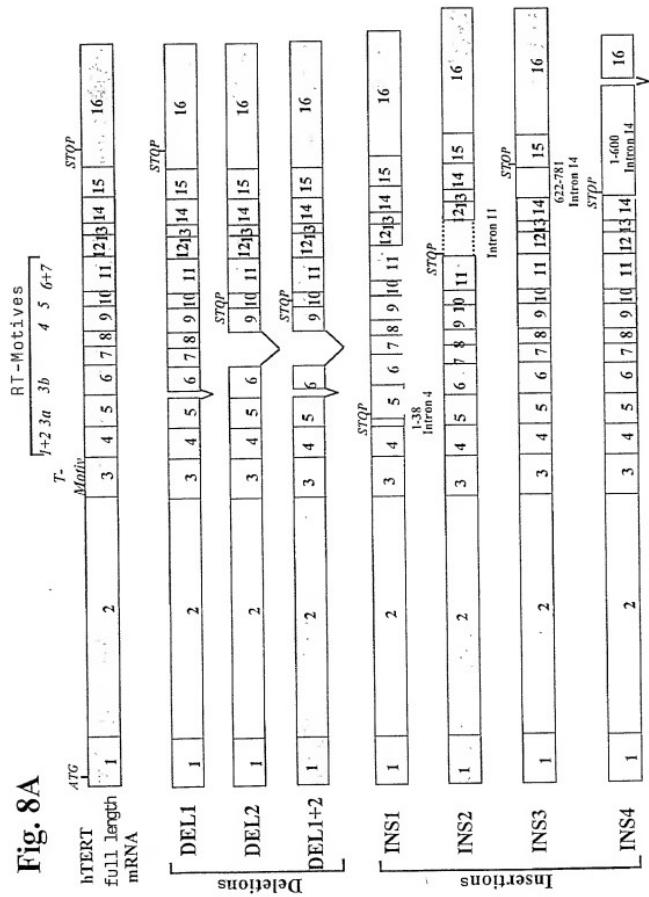


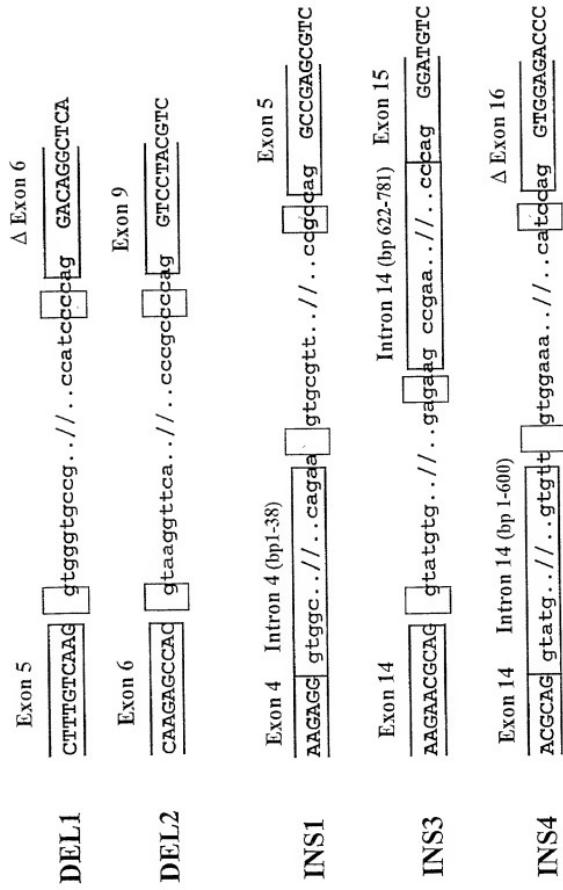
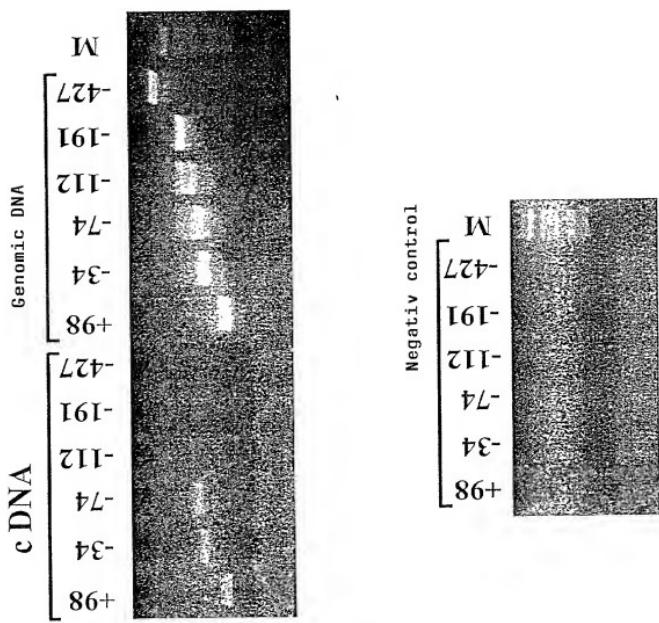
Fig. 8B

Fig. 9



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Fig. 10

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 CCACAGATG TGAGGATATAA TTGCAACT ATCATCTAC CAAGGAACTT ATAACCCAGTA TATATAAGGA -7984
 GCTCAACTA CTCTCTAAAGA AAAACACCA TAAAGCTGT TTCTAAACAT AAGCCTAAAGA TCTGGGTAGA -7914
 CATTCTCAA ATAATGCTAT AACAAATGCC AACGGGCTAC TGAAATGTG CTAAACACCA CTGATCATCA -7844
 GAGGAATGCA AACATCAACAT ATGATGAGG ATCATCTCAT CCGAGTAAAT TTGCTTCTTAA TTCAAAGAC -7774
 AGGCAATACG AACATGCGT GAGGTGGCTG ATTAAGGAGA ACCCTTGGAC ACTGTGGTGG GGRATGGAAA -7704
 TTGCTACCCAT TATGGAGACG AGTTGGAAAG TTCTCTAA AACCTAAAGA AAAGCTACCA TACRGCAATC -7634
 CCATGCTAG TGATATCTAC CAAACAGG AATCTAGTG TAACACAGGT ATCTCCACTC CCACATTAC -7564
 TGCAGCTGT TTCTACAGG CCAAGGTTTG GAAGCAACCTA CAGITGCTAC CAACAGACGA ATGAAAAGA -7494
 AAATATGTTG GCACATACAC ATGGGGTACG TACGGACGG TAAAGGAGAAGGAGAACAAAC TTTCTAGTT -7354
 CAGCATGGG GGCACCTGGT ACATGTTAA GTGAATTAAG CCAGGCGAC AAAGACAAAC GAGGATGTTG GTTCTAGAGG -7284
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 GGGGGGGGAC AGGTGGTACTA GAGTCRACAAT TATTCTTATG TATGTTTTAA ATAACCTAA AGGATATAAT -7124
 TGGGTGTTT GTAAACACAA GAAAGGATAA ATCTCTGAG GTGACAGATA CCCCATTTAC CTCGATGTGA -7144
 TTATTCACAC TGTATGCTT GTATCAACAT ATCTCTGAG TGCTTGTAGAT ATAACCTAA CTATATTTAA -7074
 AATAAAATTTT ATTAATGCGG GGCGCATGGG CTCTATGCGG TAATCCCGAC ACTTTGGGAG GCGGAGGGCG -7004
 GTGGTCACTC TGAGGGTCAAG AGTTGGAAAG CTTCTGGGG ACCATGTGATAA PACCCTGTCTC TACTAAAGA -6934
 TACAAAATTT AGCCAGCGT GTGGGACAT ACCCTGTAGTC CCAACTACCT AGGAGGCTGA GACAGGAGAA -6864
 TTGCTGTGAACT TTGGGAGGGAG GAGGGTCAAG TGAGGCCAGA TCATGCCACT GACTCTGAGC CTGGGTGACA -6794
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 AATAAGAAC AATGTATGTG GGTTCTGAG CTCTCTGAGA AGTAAAGGT ATGGCCACGA TGGCAGAAAT -6584

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Fig. 10

GTGAGGGAGG AACAGTGGAA GTTACTGTG TTAGACGCTC ATACTCTCG TAAGTGACTT AATTTAAC -6514
 AAAAGACAGG TGGGAGAAGT TAAAGGGCA TTCTATAAGC CCTAAAACAA CTGCTAATAA TGTTGAAAGG -6444
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 CGTTGTGAG CAGGGCATGA ATGCCCTTA TTACGCTG CAAAGAATTCG CTCTGGATAC CATCTGGAAA -6024
 AGGGCCCG AGGGATAGCA AGGAGTCAGA AGCCCTCTGC TCAACCCAGG CAGGAGCT ATGGCCCA -5954
 CCCGGCCG TGCCAGAGGG AGAGGAGCTCA AGGCCCTCC AAATGTGCT TAATCTTT TTTCACCTGA -5884
 AGCAGTGACC AAGGTGATT CTGAGGGAGG CTGAGTAGTG GTGCTCTTCTP TAAACAGGA AGTCATGGA -5814
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 CGGAATGGAT TTGATTTA TCTTAAATA TCTCATTAATTA TCTCATTAATTA ACATTCAGGA CTGAGAAAT -5464
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 AGAGGCTCG GCGGCAAGGG TATGAGCAGC GCAGGGCCAC CGGGAGAGGA GTCCCCGGGC TGGGAGGGCTG -5254
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 CCGTGGAAAC GAACATGACC CTGTCGCTGC TTGCTCTCTGG GTGGGTGCA CGGTTAATGAA GTGGTGTGCA -5044
 GGAATGGCC ATGTAATTA CAGCTGCCTG CTGAGGGGG CCGTCTCTTC CATCAATTAT CATCTCACCC -4974
 CCCAGGACT GAATGATTCG AGCAACCTTC TGCGGTGTA AGAACCTGA CAARACTCAG TACAAACACCC -4904
 ACTCTTTAC TAGGCCAACAGA GAGCCGGCC CACACCCCTG ATATATAAG AGTCACGGAG AGATGAGGCT -4834
 GCTTCTGAGCC ACCAGGCTGG GTGACAAACA GCGCTGTAAC AGTCCTGTTCTC TCTAGACTG TAGACCCCTGG -4764
 CAGGGACTCC CCGACATTC AGGGCTCTGG TGCTGCTTCC AGGGGGCCCG AGGGGGCCCG ATCTGCTCTG GAGACTCAGC -4694
 CTGGGGTGGC AGACTGAGG CAGCCCTCTG TCCACACCTC CGGCTCTCCAG GCCTCAGCTT CTCCAGCAGC -4624
 TTCTAACARCC CTGGGGTGGG CGTCTGCTTCC CGCTCTGTC TCCACTCTG CACTGTGCT CACTGTGCT -4554
 AGCTGACTCG CAGGGCTCTC CCTCACATG GTGTTGCTG TCTTCTCCCA ACACATCACAT GCGTTGAGG -4484
 GAGGAGATTC TGCGCTCCCG AGACTGCTG CTCTGAGCTT GAAACTGGT CGTGGGCCCCC GTAGCAGGTT -4414
 CTGGGGCTCC CGCTGTCAGC TGACCTCTC TCTACGGGG CACCTCTCTC CTGTCATCTG CGGGGGCTG -4344
 CGGTGTGTT CTTCCTGTTG TGTTGCTCTT TCCACGCTCA GTGCTGCTTG TCTCTGCCCC CGTAGGCTCTC -4274
 GGGGTTTAA TAGGCTAGG AGGGGGGGT GTGGGGCCCG AGGGGGCTGG CAGGGCTCTGG GGAATGCAAA CATTGGGTTG -4204
 TGAAGTAGG AGTGGCTGCTC CTCACTTGG TCCACGGCA CAGGGCTGG GATGGAGCCC CGGGCAGGGA -4134
 CCCGGCTCTC TGCTGGCCAG ACCTTCTGC CCCCTCTCTT CTGGACACCA GAGTGGCAGT TTCCACACGC -4064
 ACTAAGCATC CTCTCTCCAA AGAACCCAG ATGGCACCC CTGGACATTT GCCCCCACAGC CCTGGGATT -3994

-414

CACCTGCTA CGCACATCAT GTACACACTC CGCTCCACGA CGGACCCCCG CTGTTTATT TAATAGCTA -3924
 CAAGCAGGG AAATCCCTGC TAAATGTC TTAAACAAAC TGTTAAACAAAC AGCGGCTCCA TCCCGACGGT -3854
 GGACAGCTTCTC TCACAGTGA GAGGACATAG CGCTTATAAC AGCTCTGAGG CATCTCAAGG GAATTCAGCT -3784
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 AAGGGAGTCTT CTGGTTCTG ATGTTATTT CTGAGTAGTG GGAGACTAC CATAGGGGG FGGGGATGGG -3574
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 ACGGAGCTCC CAGGGAGACG CGCTGGCTT CTAGCATGA GTGTTGGGG ATTTCAGAAA GCAACAGGAA -3084
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 CGTCTCTCTG TTACATTCAGA GTTCTCTGCA CGACCTCTG TCCCATGGG CCAACTCGAG GGGCGAGCTGG -2454
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 CTGACCTCTC GTATGACTCC CACCTCAAGG TCCCAAGTGC CTGGGATAC AGGCATGAGC CACTGCACT -2664
 GGCCTATTAA ACCATTTAA AACCTCTCTG CGCTCAAGTG ACACCCACTG GTAAGGAGT GTAGGAGTTC -2594
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 TTGTTTGTG TTGGAGAGG TTGTTACTC GTGTTGCTA CGCTGGAGGG AGTGGATGAG CGGGATCTG -2104
 GTTACTGCA GCCCTCTGCT CCCAGGTTCA AGTGATTCG CTGCTCTGGC CTCCCATTTG GCTGGGATTA -2034
 CAGGACCCCG CCACCATGCC CAGCTAATT TTGTTATTT TAGTAGAGAC GGGGGTGGGT GGGGGTCACTC -1964

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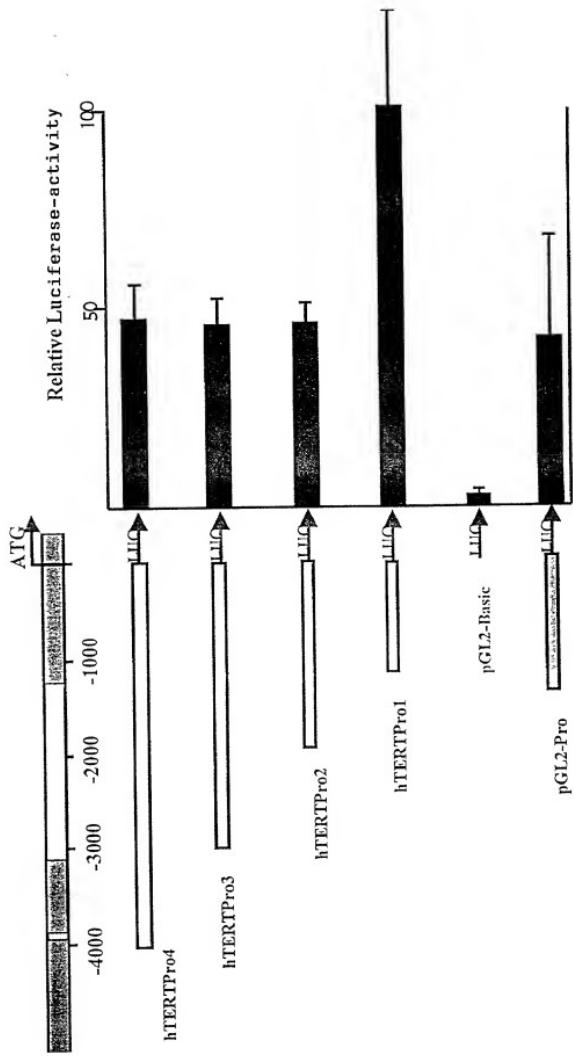
Fig. 10

ATGTTGGCCA GGCTGGTCTC GAACCTCTGA CCTCAGATGA TCCACCTGCC TCTGCCTCTT AAAGTGCTGG -1894
 GATTACAGGT GTGAGCCACC ATGCCAGCT CAGAAATTAC TCTGTTAGA AACATCTGG TCTGAGGTAG -1824
 CAAT-Box
 GAAGCTCAC CCACTCAGT GTTGTGGTGT TTTC[CCA] TGATAGAATT TTTTATTGT TGTTAGAAC -1754
 CTCTTGATGT TTTCACACTGT GATGACTAAG ACATCATCAG CTTCACAAG ACACACTAAC TSCACCCATA -1684
 ATACTGGGGT GTCTCTGGG TATCAGCAAT CTTCATTGAA TGCGGGGAGG CGTTTCCCG CCATGCACAT -1614
 GGTGTTAATT ACTCCAGCAT AATCTCTGC TTCCATTCT TCCTCTCCCT CTTTAAAT TGTGTTTCT -1544
 ATGTTGGCTT CTCTGAGAG AACCAAGTGA AGCTACACT TAACCTTTGT TGGAACAAT TTCCAA[CC] -1474
Spl
 [CCA] CTTCG CCTAGTGGCA GAGACAATTAC ACAAAACACAG CCCTTTAAAAA AGGCTTAGGG ATCACTAAAGG -1404
 GGATTTCTAG AAGAGCGACC TGTAATCTCA AGTATTTACA AGACGAGGT AACCTCCAGC GAGCGTGACA -1334
 GCCCAGGGG GGTGCGAGGC CTGTTCAAAT GCTAGCTCCA TAAATAAAGC AATTCTCCG GCCAGTTCT -1264
 GAAAGTAGGA AAGGTTACAT TAAAGGTTGC GTTGTGGTAC ATTTCAGTGT TTGCGGACCT CAGCTACAGC -1194
 ATCCCTGCAA GGCCCTGGGA GACCCAGAAG TTTCCTGGCC CCTTAGATCC AAACCTGAGC ARCCGGAGT -1124
 CTGAGTTCTT GGGAGTCTT CAGCTGCTC CGGGTTGTG CGGGGCCCGA GCTCTGGAGG GGACCCAGTGG -1054
 CGCTGTGGCT TCTACTGCTG GGCTGAAAGT CGGGCCCTCT AGCTCTGCAG TCCGAGGCTT GGAGCCAGGT -984
 GCCTGGACCC CGAGGCGTGC CTCCCACCTG TGCGGGCGGG ATGTGACCAAG ATGTTGGCTT CAICTGCCAG -914
 ACAGAGTGC GGGGGCCAGG GTCAAGGGCG TTGTGGCTG TGTGAGGGCGC CGGGTGCAGC GGAGCAGGA -844
CCAC-Box
 GCGCTGGCT CCATT[CCA CCC] TTCTCG ACGGGAC[CG CCC] GTGGGGT GATTAACAGA TTTGGGGTGG -774
 TTGCTCATG GTGGGGACCC CTGCCCCCT GAGAACCTGC AAAGAGAAAAT GACGGGCCTG TGTCAGGAG -704
 CCCAAGTGC GGGGAGTGT TGCAAGGGAGG CACTCCGGGA GGTCCCGCTG GCCCGTCCAG GGAGCAATGC -634
AP-2
 GTCTCTGGGT TCG[CCCCCG CGCGCTCTAC CGCCACCTCGT CCTCCCTTC AGCTCCGCCA TICGTGGTGC -564
 CGGGAGCCCG AGCCCCCGCG TCCGACCTG GAGGCACCC CGGGTCTCG GATCAGGCCA CGGGCCAAAG -494
 GGTGGCCGA CGCACCTGTT CCCAGGGCT CCTACATCG GCCCTCCCT CGGGTTACCC CACAGCCTAG -424
Spl
 GCCGATTCGA CCTCTCTCG CTGGGGCCCT CGCTGGCGTC CCTGCACCCCT GGGAGCGCGA GC33[CGCG] -354
Spl
 [GCC]GGGAAG CGGGGGCCAG ACCCCCCGGT [CGCG]GGGAG CAGCTGCCCT GTGGGGGCCA GGCGGGCTC -284
c-Myc
 CCAGTGGATT CGGGGGCACA GACGCCAGG ACCGCCTGC[CG] GACCGCTGC GAGGGACTGG GGACCCGGGC -214
Spl
 ACCCGTCTCG CCCCTTCACC TTCCAGCTCC GCCTCTCTCG CGCGACCC[CC] GCGCGTCCC GACCCCTCCC -144
 GGGTCCCCCGG CCCAGCCCCC TCCGGGCCCT CCCAGCCCCCTT CCCCTTCCTT TCCGGCGCG[CG] GCGCGTCTCC -74
c-Myc
 TCGCGGCGCG AGTTTCAGGC AGCGCTGCCT CGTGCCTGC[CG] ACGTGGAGG CCTGGCCCCC GGCCACCCCCC -4

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Fig. 11



COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO

Le A 32805

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought
on the invention entitled

REGULATORY DNA SEQUENCES OF THE HUMAN CATALYTIC TELOMERASE SUB-UNIT GENE, DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC USE THEREOF

the specification of which is attached hereto,

or was filed on **December 22, 1998**

as a PCT Application Serial No. **PCT/EP98/08216**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s), the priority(ies) of which is/are to be claimed:

197 57 984.1 (Number)	Germany (Country)	December 24, 1997 (Month/Day/Year Filed)
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose the material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

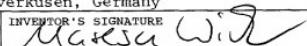
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Docket No. 32805

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

- 5-
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Barbara A. Shimel, Reg. No. 29862
William F. Gray, Reg. No. 31018
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RESIDENCE <u>D 51373, Leverkusen, Germany DEX</u>		CITIZENSHIP <u>German</u>
POST OFFICE ADDRESS <u>c/o Bayer Aktiengesellschaft, D 51368 Leverkusen, Germany</u>		
FULL NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR <u>Maresa Wick</u>		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE  DATE <u>16 Mai 2000</u>
RESIDENCE <u>D 51065 Köln, Germany DEX</u>		CITIZENSHIP <u>German</u>
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RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP
POST OFFICE ADDRESS		
FULL NAME OF FIFTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP
POST OFFICE ADDRESS		
FULL NAME OF SIXTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP
POST OFFICE ADDRESS		
FULL NAME OF SEVENTH INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP
POST OFFICE ADDRESS		

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